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# LEGENDS OF THE DC UNIVERSE

The title is composed of the words 'LEGENDS', 'OF THE DC', 'UNIVERSE', and 'UNIVERSE' stacked vertically. Each word is formed by a series of comic book panels. The 'L' in 'LEGENDS' shows Superman and a man in a white shirt. The 'O' in 'OF THE DC' shows Captain America and a man in a green and yellow suit. The 'U' in 'UNIVERSE' shows a gorilla and a bald man with a red cape. The 'N' in 'UNIVERSE' shows a man in a yellow suit and a man in a blue suit. The 'V' in 'UNIVERSE' shows a man in a red suit and a man in a blue suit. The 'E' in 'UNIVERSE' shows a man in a yellow suit and a man in a blue suit.

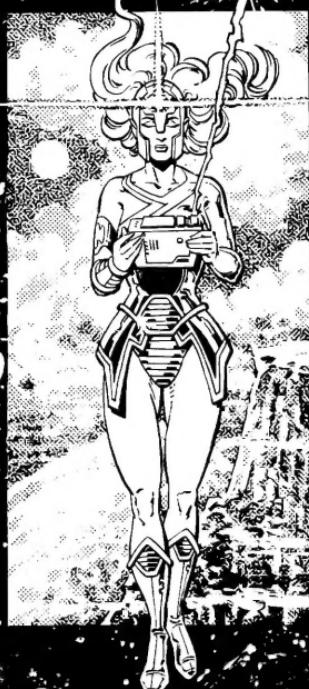
BOOK

WOLFMAN & PÉREZ

TWO

# HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE

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## HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE BOOK TWO

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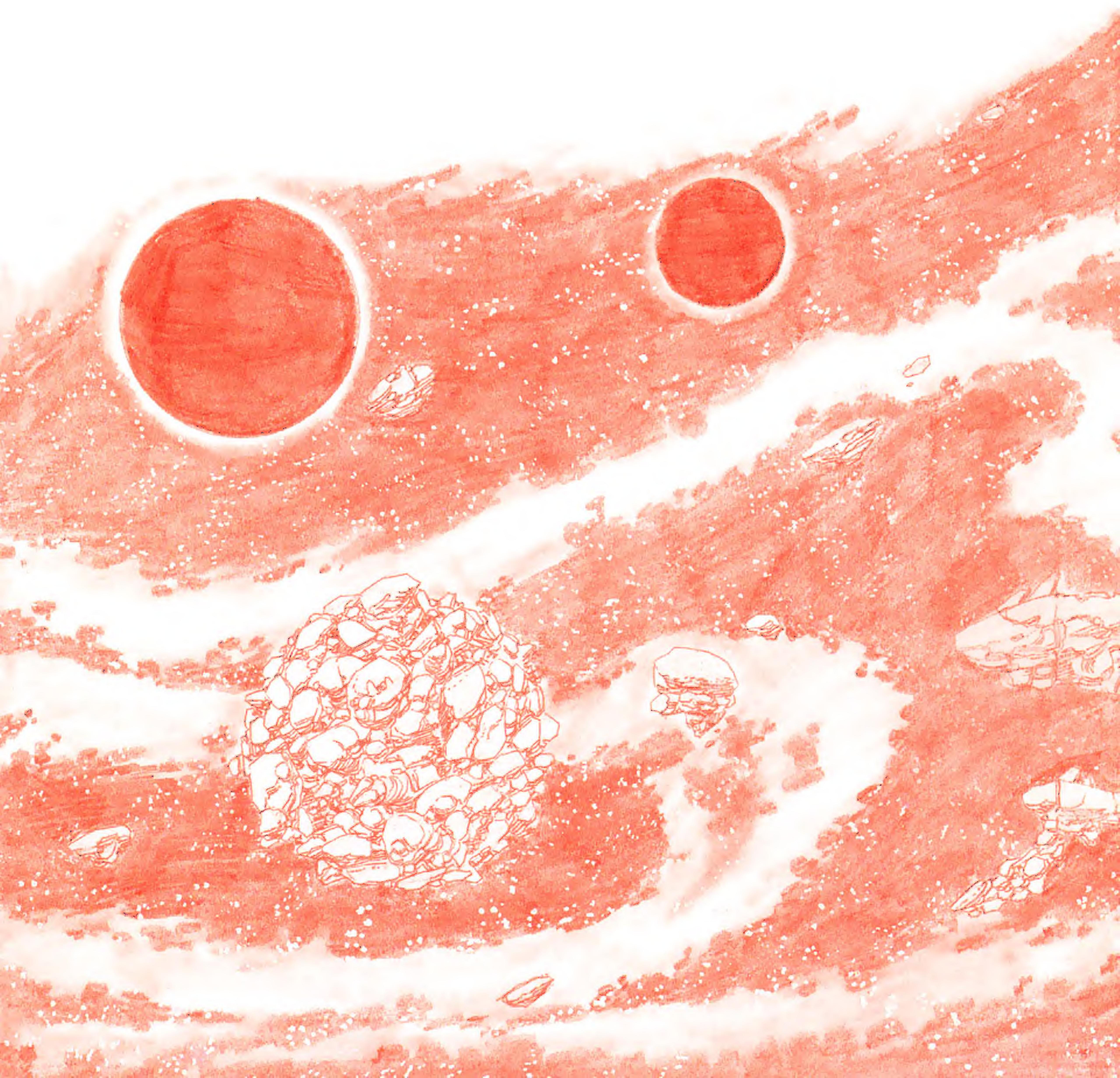
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**I**n the beginning, there was but one universe, one world... one Earth. At the moment of creation, a moment some believe inspired by an outside force, a moment others believe exploded whole and onto itself—a second universe was created of heat and light, gas and plasma, and a million other elements gestating in the cosmic womb. This was a universe of counterbalance...a negative universe to our positive creation: an existence of anti-matter to our positive matter. This was a universe of darkness, a universe of evil, a universe of twisted reality.

And in this second universe, there was born one single being who would live ten billion years and disrupt all future reality.

This then is that history of those ten billion years, and of the years that follow. This is not a chronological retelling of historical events which can be read in any text—this is the history of heroism.

My name is Harbinger and I am honor-bound to record all that has happened and all that will occur.

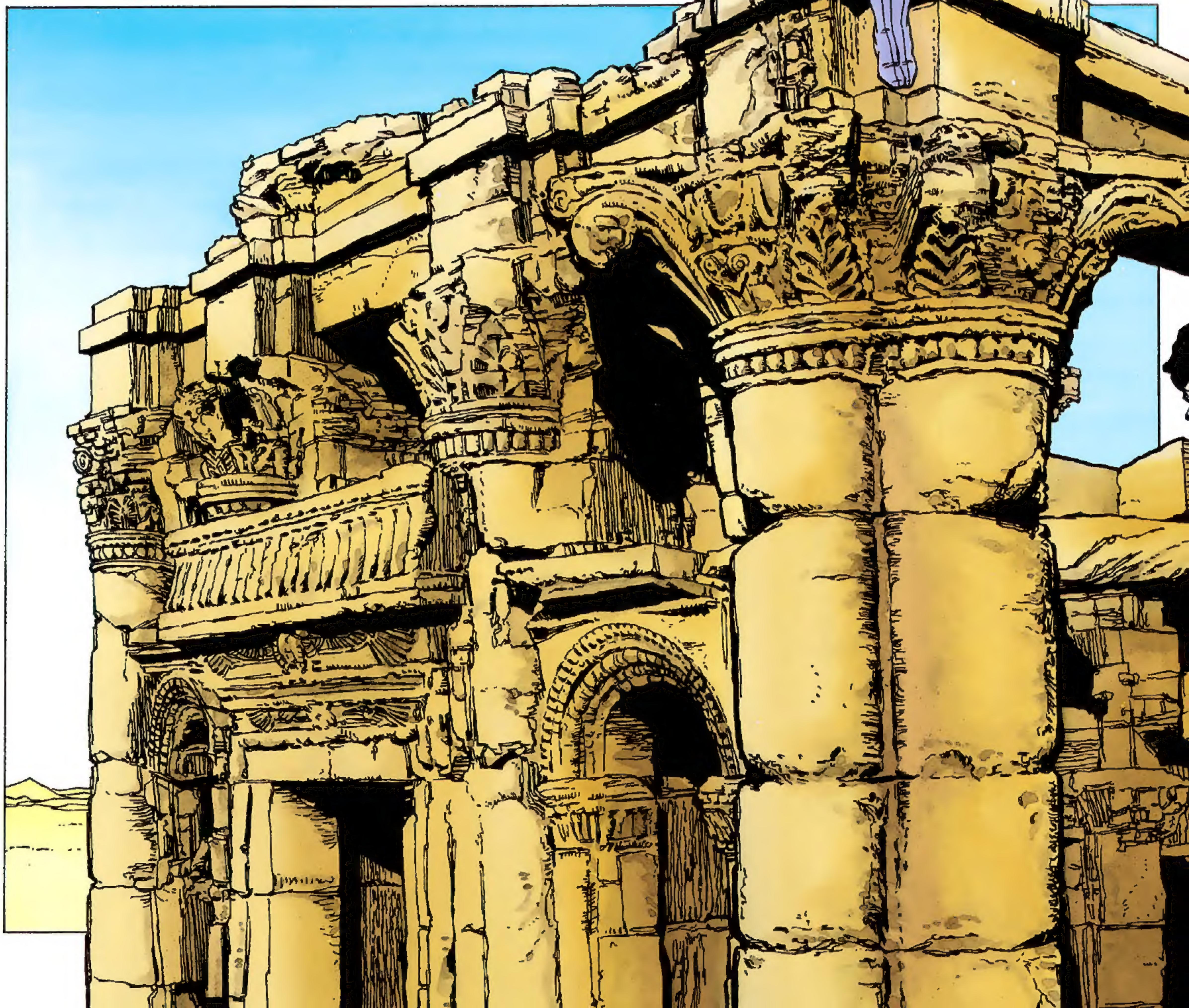


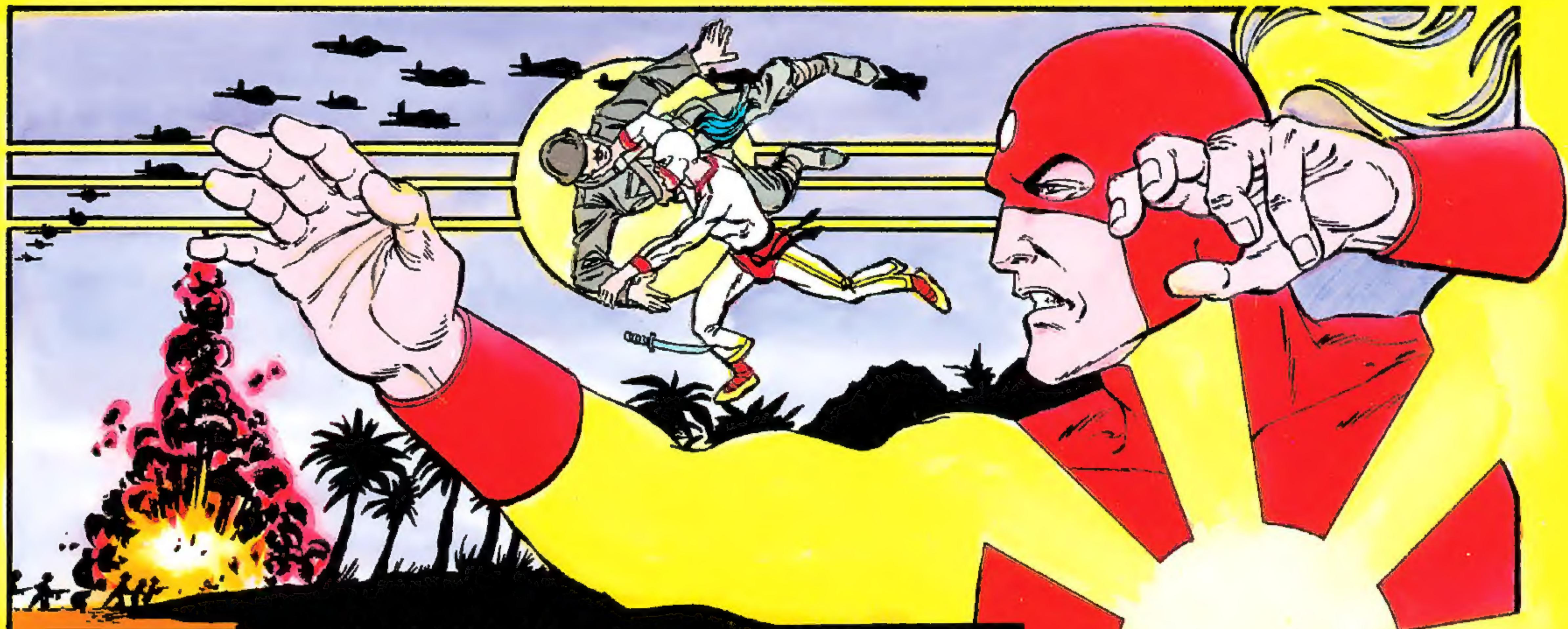
Throughout history, there have been those men and women, those creatures from other worlds and dimensions, those beings who have altered the face of the world: sometimes by their deeds, sometimes by their very presence. They are beings often with unique abilities and possessed of unexpected courage.

My mentor — who called himself The Monitor — spent ten thousand millennia observing these heroes, cataloging their tales and recording their moments of greatness. He spent an equal number of years observing others:

those with special powers who used their abilities for evil. The Monitor has since perished, but his chronicles must be continued. I have appointed myself to that endless task.

This, then, is the History Of The Universe.



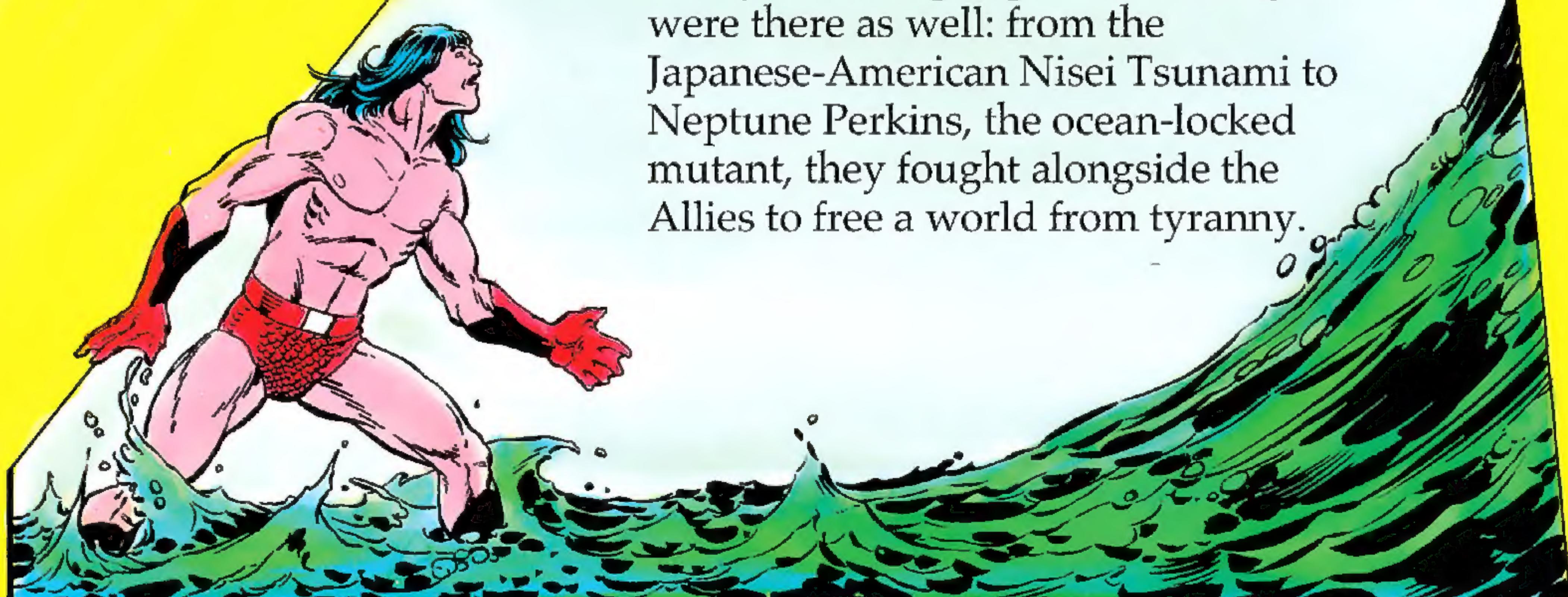


America entered World War II and hope was high that this international conflict would soon come to an end. The allied heroes—costumed and otherwise—joined the battle for freedom and democracy. Judomaster and Tiger were among the first in the Pacific Theater of War, but others followed quickly on their heels.



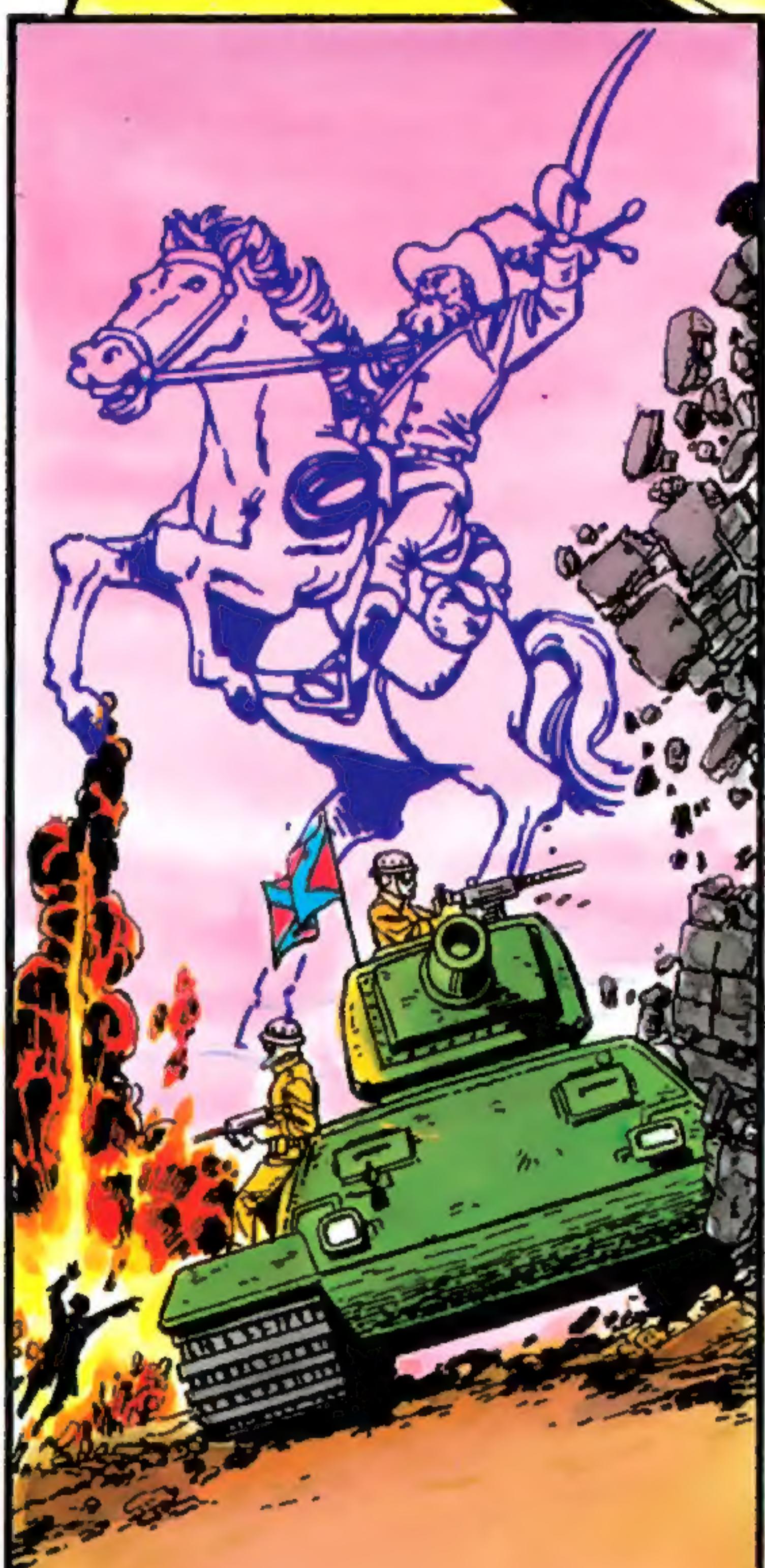
As soldiers marched through Europe and Japan, they battled alongside others who kept their unique gifts hidden. This would be a war fought with the uncommon courage of common people in a conflict against global evil. It was a war that had to be fought by the ordinary person in order to assure freedom on a world that had to stand on its own, without the aid of super-powered beings.

And yet, the super-powered beings were there as well: from the Japanese-American Nisei Tsunami to Neptune Perkins, the ocean-locked mutant, they fought alongside the Allies to free a world from tyranny.

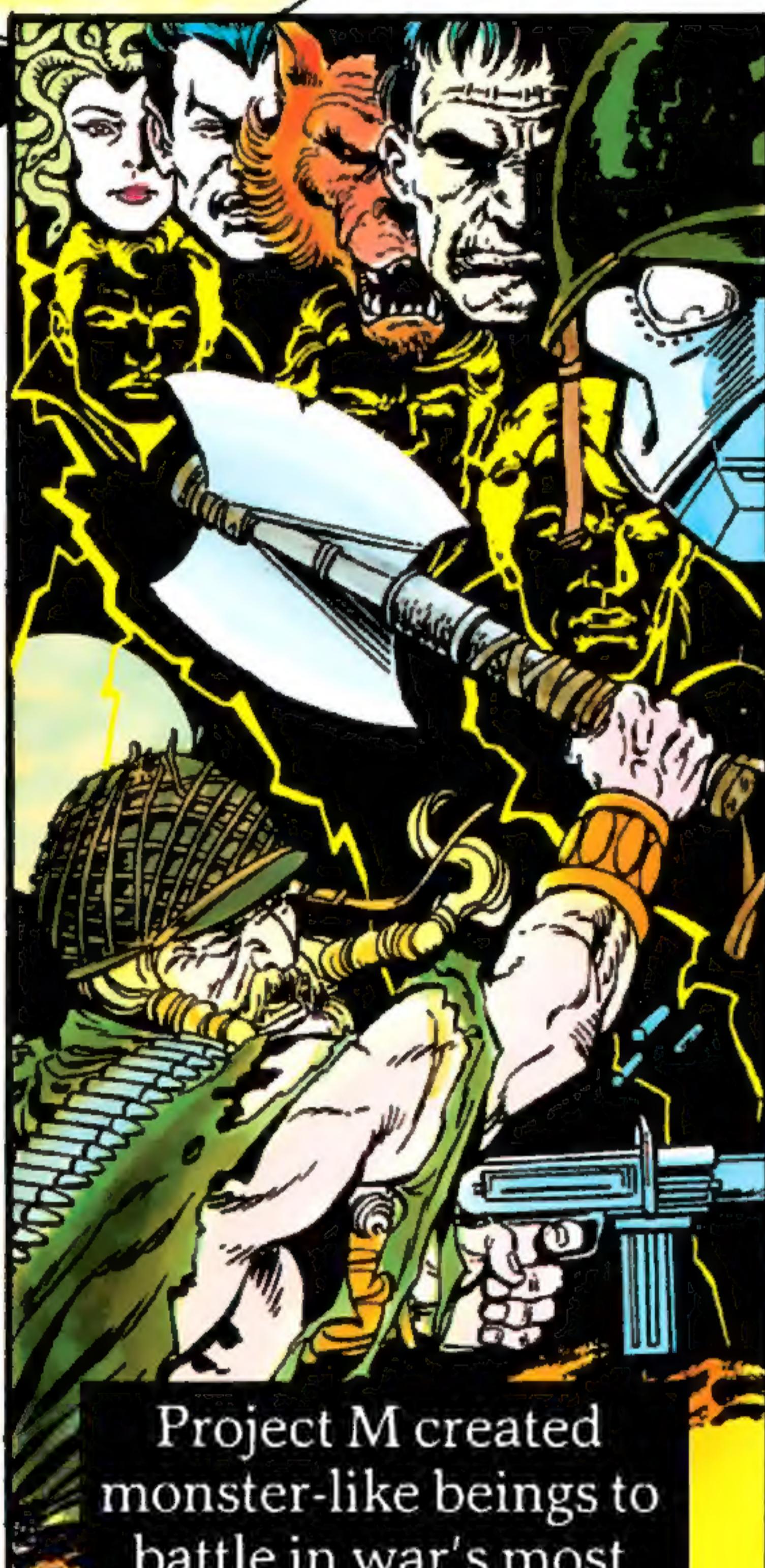




The war was fought on all continents. Many remained in America to battle subterfuge from enemy agents: The Guardian and The Newsboy Legion proved even those without extraordinary powers could advance the cause of freedom at home.



Jeb Stuart led his Sherman tank crew throughout Europe, aided by his namesake ghost. This Haunted Tank scored impressive victories.



Project M created monster-like beings to battle in war's most bizarre campaigns. The Creature Commandos' record of victory was stunning, as were those of the famed G.I. Robot and the mysterious Viking Commando.



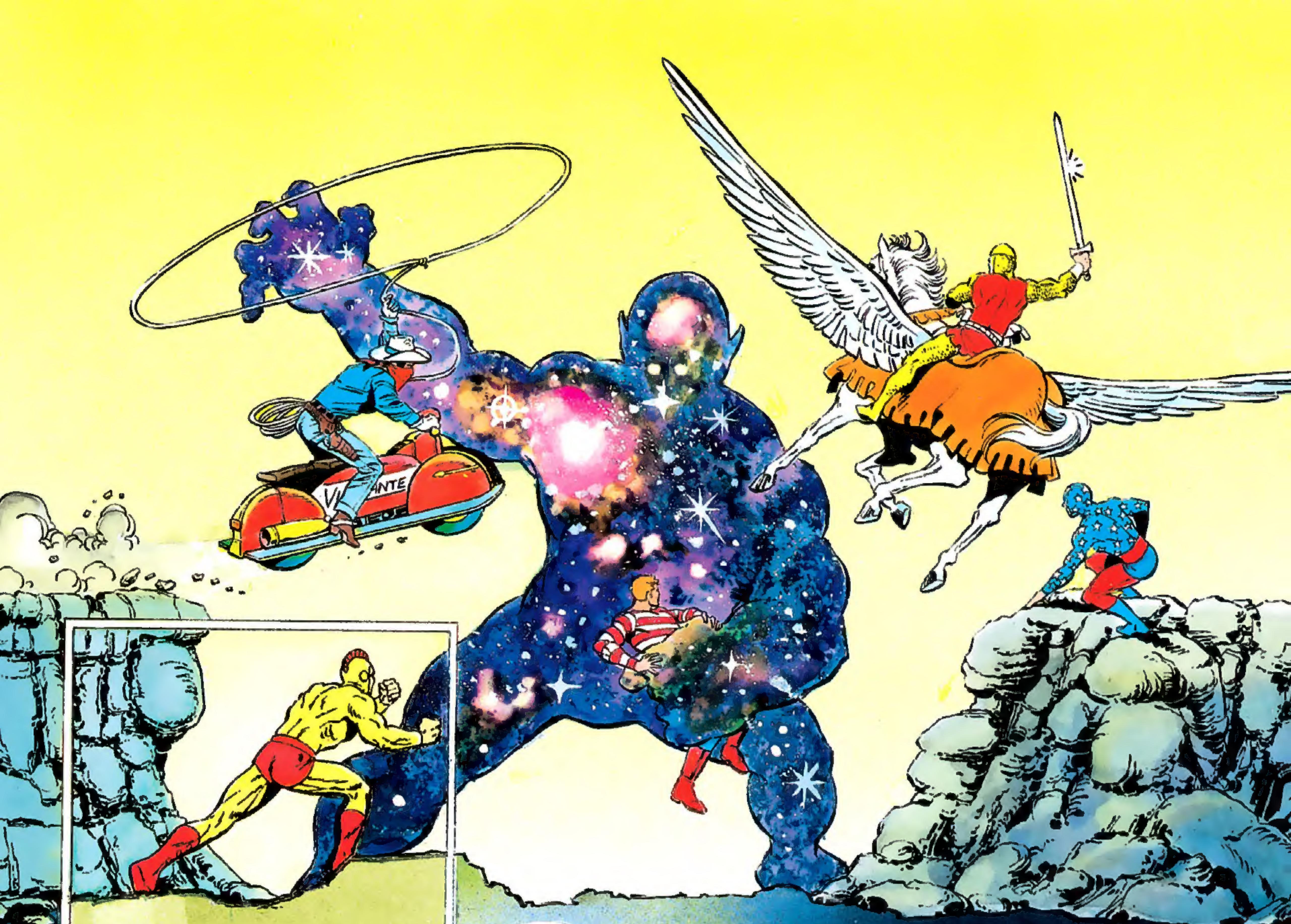
But here, as in all wars, it was the ordinary soldier who proved it does not require special powers to become a hero.



There were those men and women who worked with the O.S.S., or those who battled in the underground like Mademoiselle Marie, or Captain Ulysses Hazard who fought prejudice at home at the same time as he battled the Nazi enemy.

All too often, these heroes paid the price of valor with their lives. Until, at long last, these sacrifices were rewarded with victory—and with peace.





The war was over, and with it began the decline of the latest Heroic Age. The Law's Legionnaires, formed before the war, came to an end when one of their teammates, Wing, sacrificed his life to defeat the entity known as Nebula Man. The other heroes were dispersed throughout time, only to be rescued many years later by the combined forces of the Justice Society of America and one of the later-formed Justice Leagues.



There were others—heroes such as Black Canary and Merry, Girl of 1,000 Gimmicks. Both women would later have crimefighting children of their own as, out of necessity, the tradition would continue.

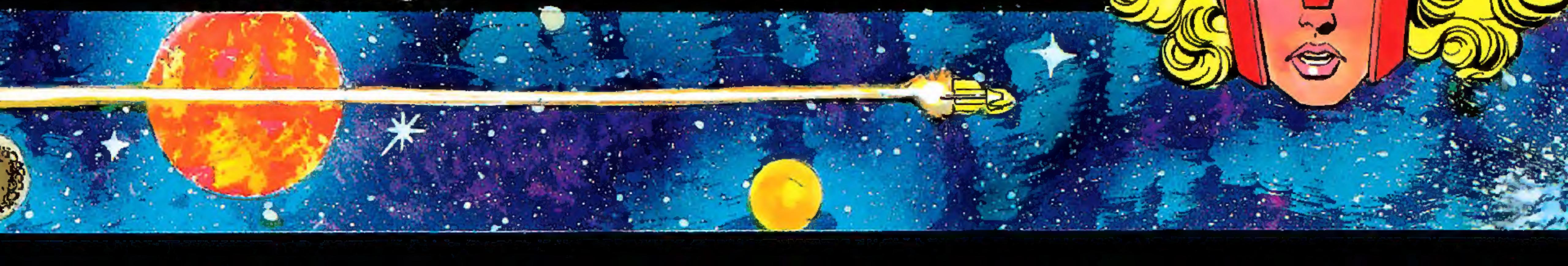



The 1940s began with the birth of the super-hero and ended with their slide into obscurity. The final, crushing blow came in the early 1950s when the Justice Society of America was brought before the House Un-American Activities Committee under suspicion of giving aid to enemy spies. Rather than reveal their secret identities, the Justice Society disbanded, and their members retired to civilian life.



Without the World's Greatest Heroes fighting to preserve freedom, the government created its own warriors: Task Force X led the fight against evil on an international scale as the former O.S.S. spymaster Control headed a domestic force.

Thus the 1950s began in quiet despair. Those people who banded together to help a world in need were driven away by an unthinking public during paranoid times. For a handful of years, there was quiet, but forces already were combining to create the greatest of all Heroic Ages.





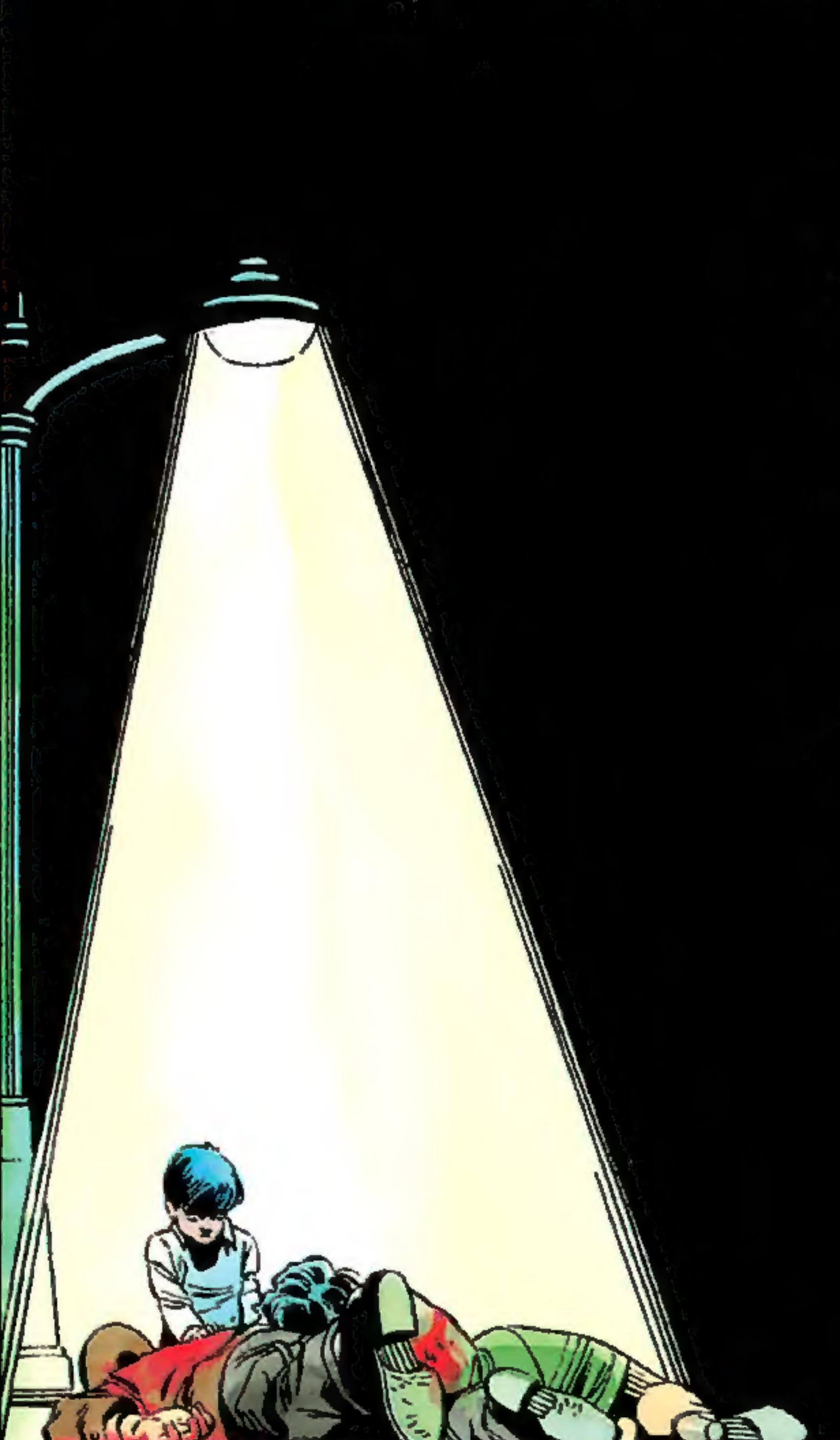
From the planet Krypton, an infant hurtled through star-studded space toward the mid-western Earth city of Smallville. This last son of a destroyed world would become the greatest hero on our planet.

Lighthouse keeper Tom Curry rescued a frightened woman shipwrecked from a hurricane and nursed her back to health. They later married and had a child whose fame would ring across the seven seas.



In Gotham City, a cowardly crook took the life of Thomas and Martha Wayne, letting a young child named Bruce remain alive. The brooding boy would grow to become the scourge of all evil.

Three incidents, separate yet intangibly connected. Together they would alter forever our view of heroes for all time to come.



A child in Smallville, a hybrid of Atlantis, and an orphan in Gotham City ...all still children; all still growing, learning, their values being shaped as their skills were being honed. They would become the saviors of tomorrow.

While they grew, there was another who watched them but was never seen. He was in Smallville and on a lonely Atlantic island. He was in Gotham City and in Star City. And while he waited for those future heroes to mature into adulthood, he confronted evil, appearing as if some Phantom Stranger.

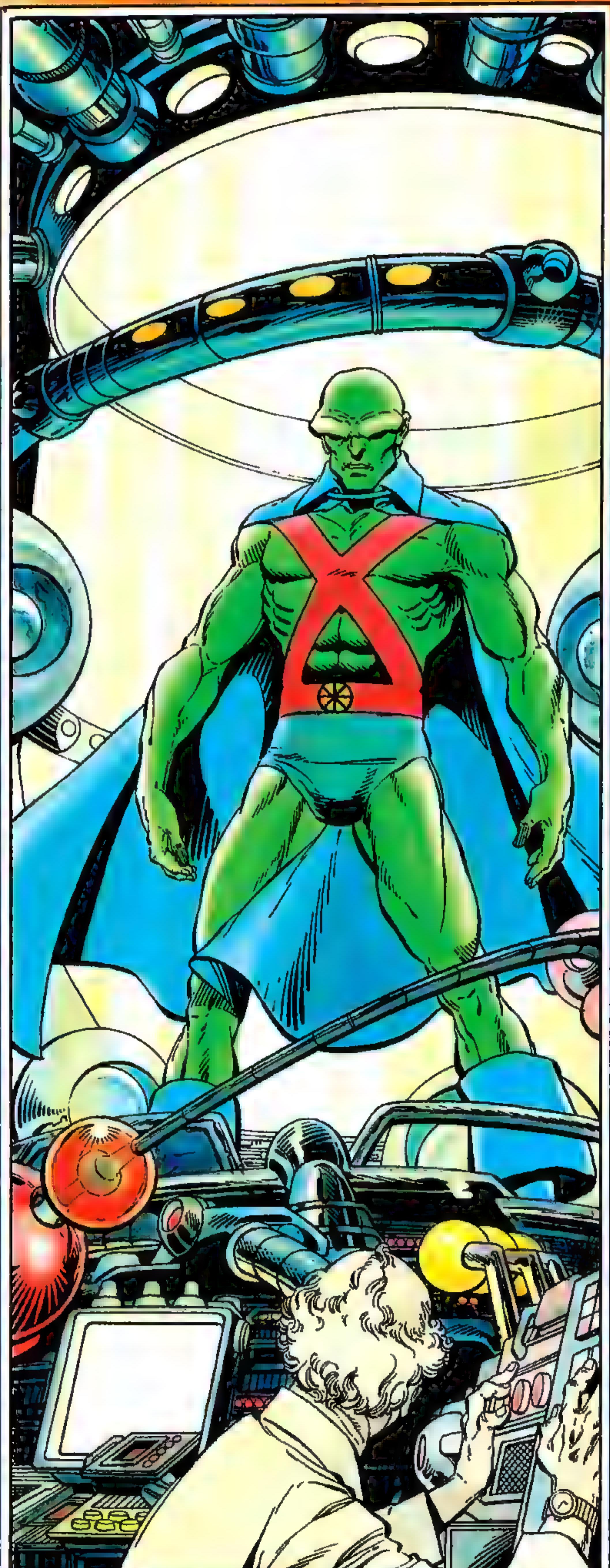


Not even the Monitor's sophisticated computers have been able to analyze this Phantom Stranger. I have been unable to discern clues to his origin, to determine the extent of his abilities. All that is known is that when he is needed he is there. A hero? Definitely. His reasons for being—unknown.

The stage was set for a revolution, but first there were the trailblazers—those who paved the way for the heroes to come. Captain Comet—a mutant born one hundred thousand years ahead of his time—was among the first.



The history of heroes spans the universe from a mutant born ahead of his time to the captain of Mars.

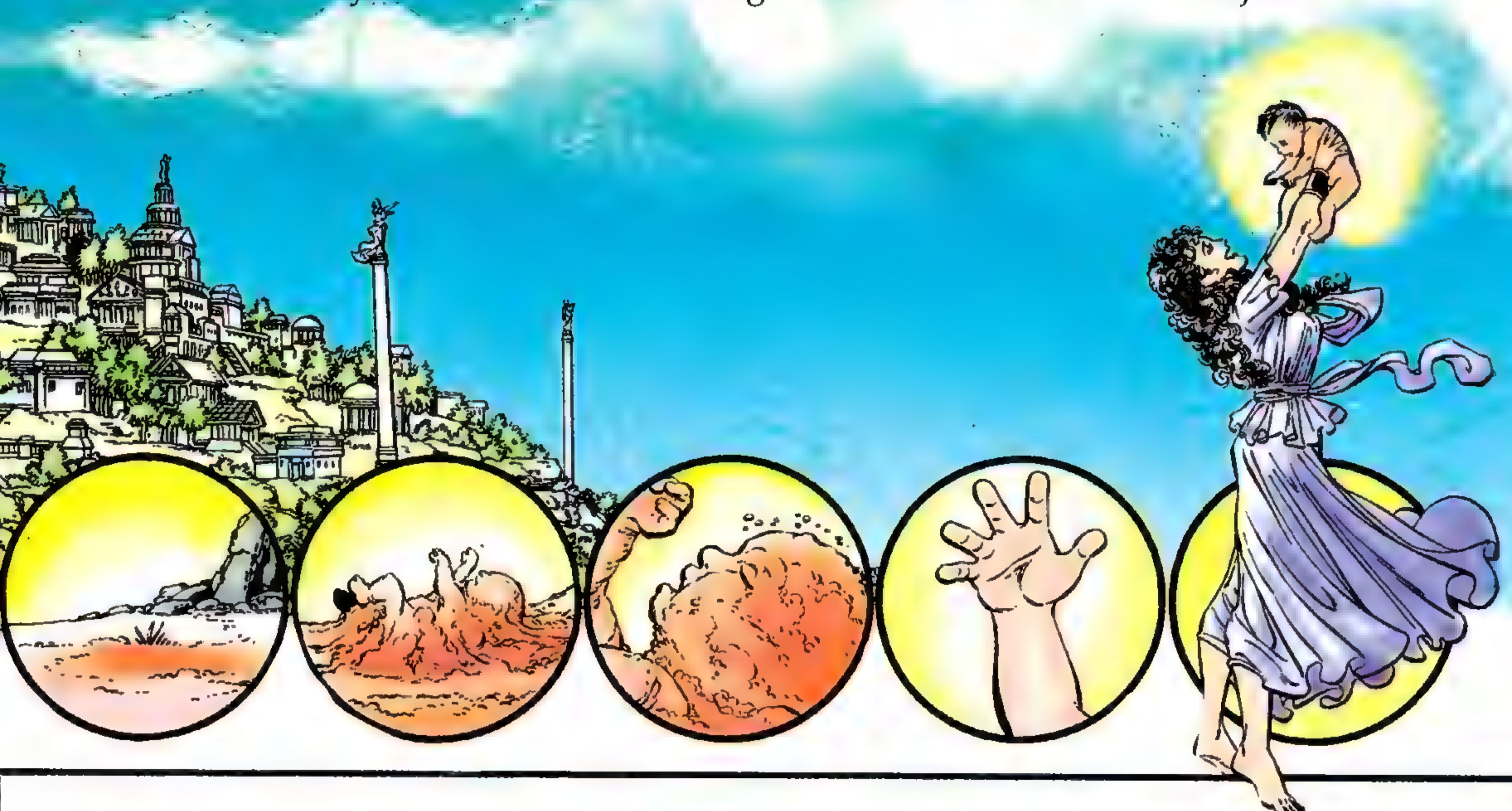


Warrior J'onn J'onzz, exiled into the parched Martian desert, was teleported accidentally to the planet Earth by the famous Professor Erdel. This Manhunter from Mars knew the time of heroes had not yet come and so remained in hiding, disguising himself as a police detective until, at last, he could allow the world to know of his existence.

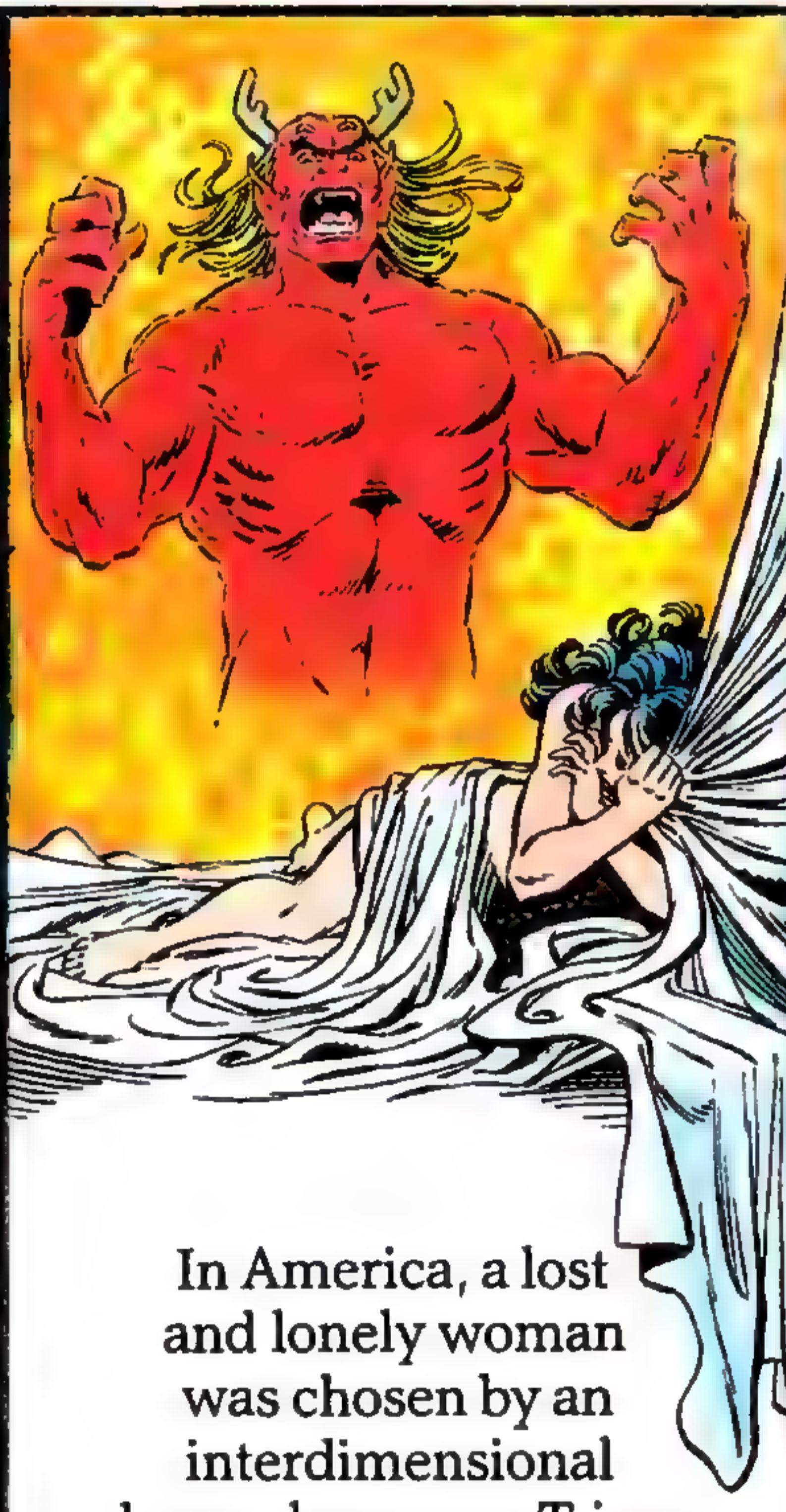
It would take the heroic appearances of the last son of Krypton, the child from Atlantis and the orphan from Gotham City to change the climate for super-heroes on Earth.



The children from Krypton, Atlantis and Gotham City were in their late teens when another child was born not from flesh and blood and bone but from mud and clay and given life by the Gods of Olympus. Born on Paradise Island, an inaccessible land in the middle of the Atlantic, the child Diana would grow up to become the greatest heroine of all time. Krypton, Gotham City and Paradise Island—from those very different locations emerged a triumvirate of Power and justice.



In Egypt, Professor Dan Garrett was investigating the Tomb of Kha-ef-re when he found the beetle scarab buried for thousands of years. Events from the past were at last affecting the future. Dan Garrett would soon become the first Blue Beetle.



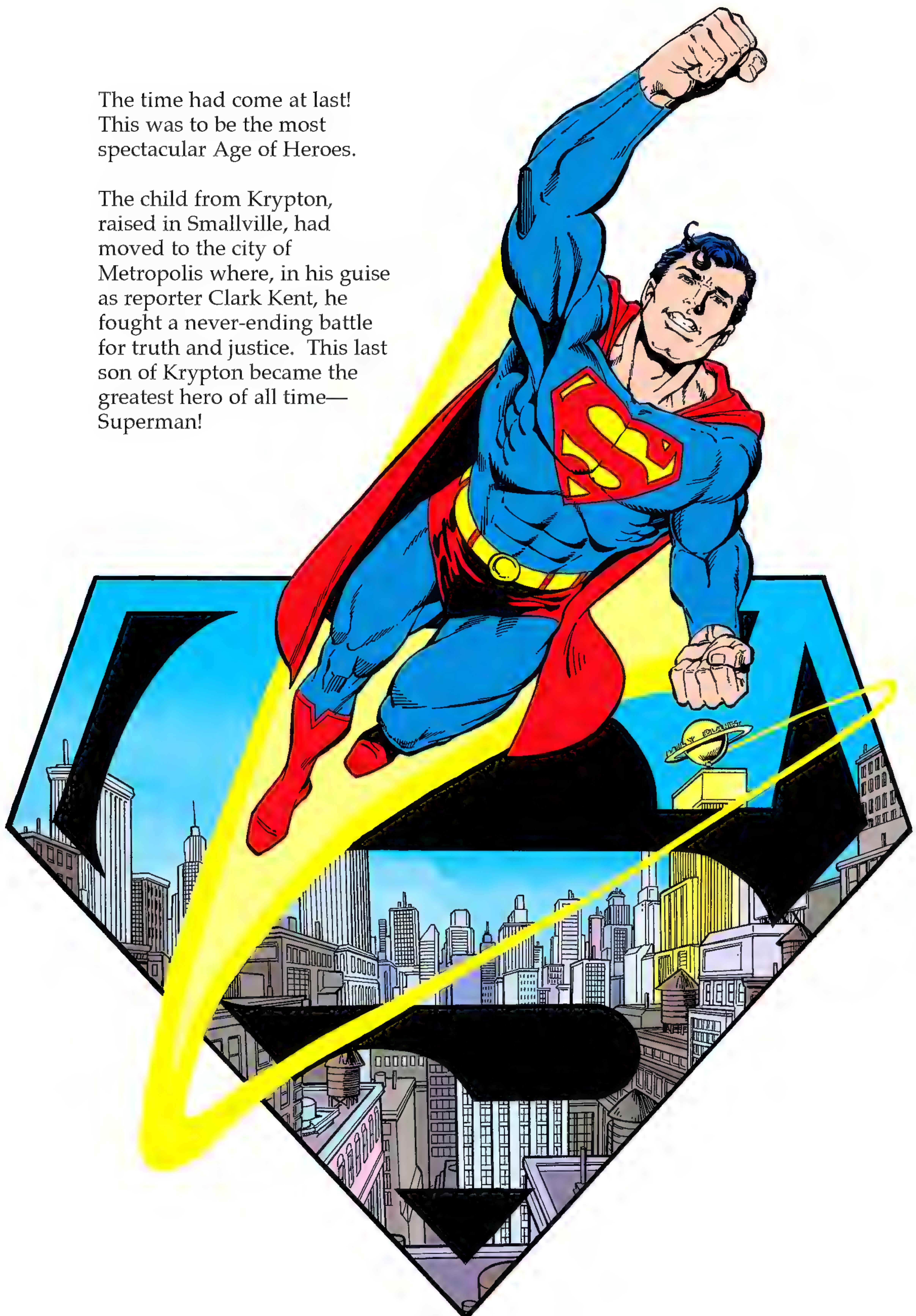
In America, a lost and lonely woman was chosen by an interdimensional demon known as Trigon to become his mate and the mother of his child with whom he would conquer our dimension.



And, at sea, a frightened child who had witnessed the drowning of her parents was rescued by the alien known as The Monitor. The child was brought to his satellite and was raised into adulthood. I am that child.

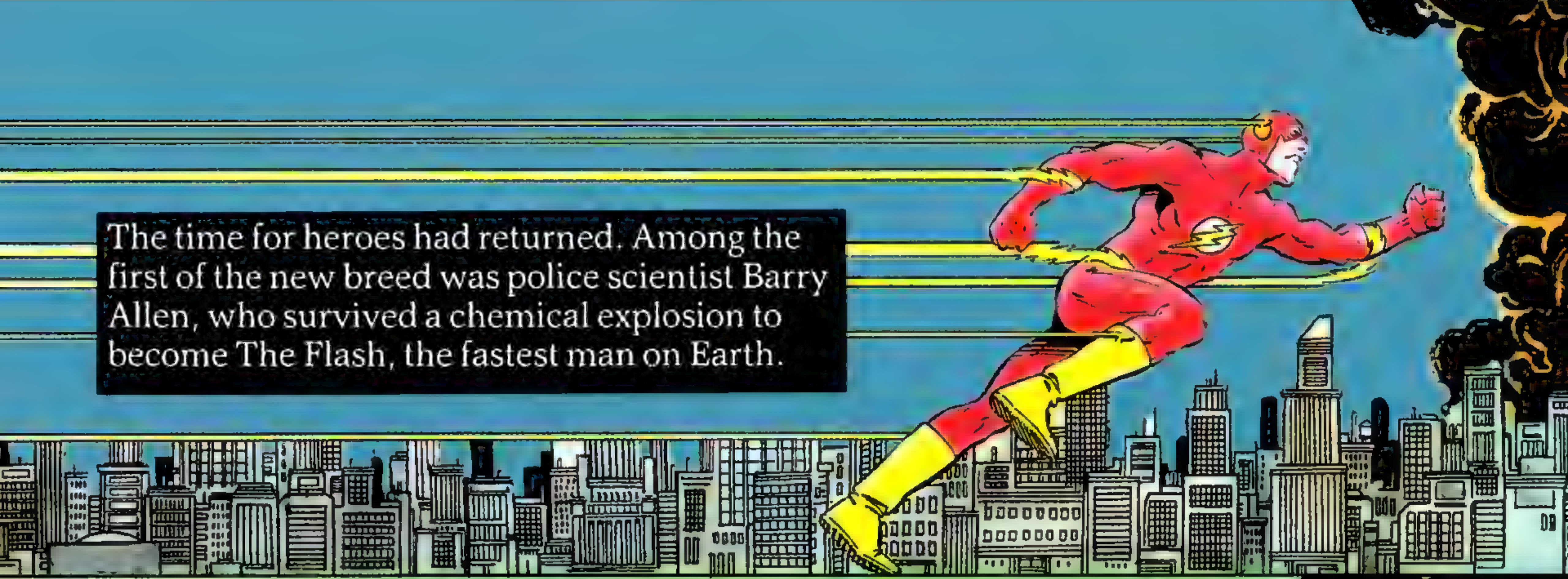
The time had come at last!  
This was to be the most  
spectacular Age of Heroes.

The child from Krypton,  
raised in Smallville, had  
moved to the city of  
Metropolis where, in his guise  
as reporter Clark Kent, he  
fought a never-ending battle  
for truth and justice. This last  
son of Krypton became the  
greatest hero of all time—  
Superman!



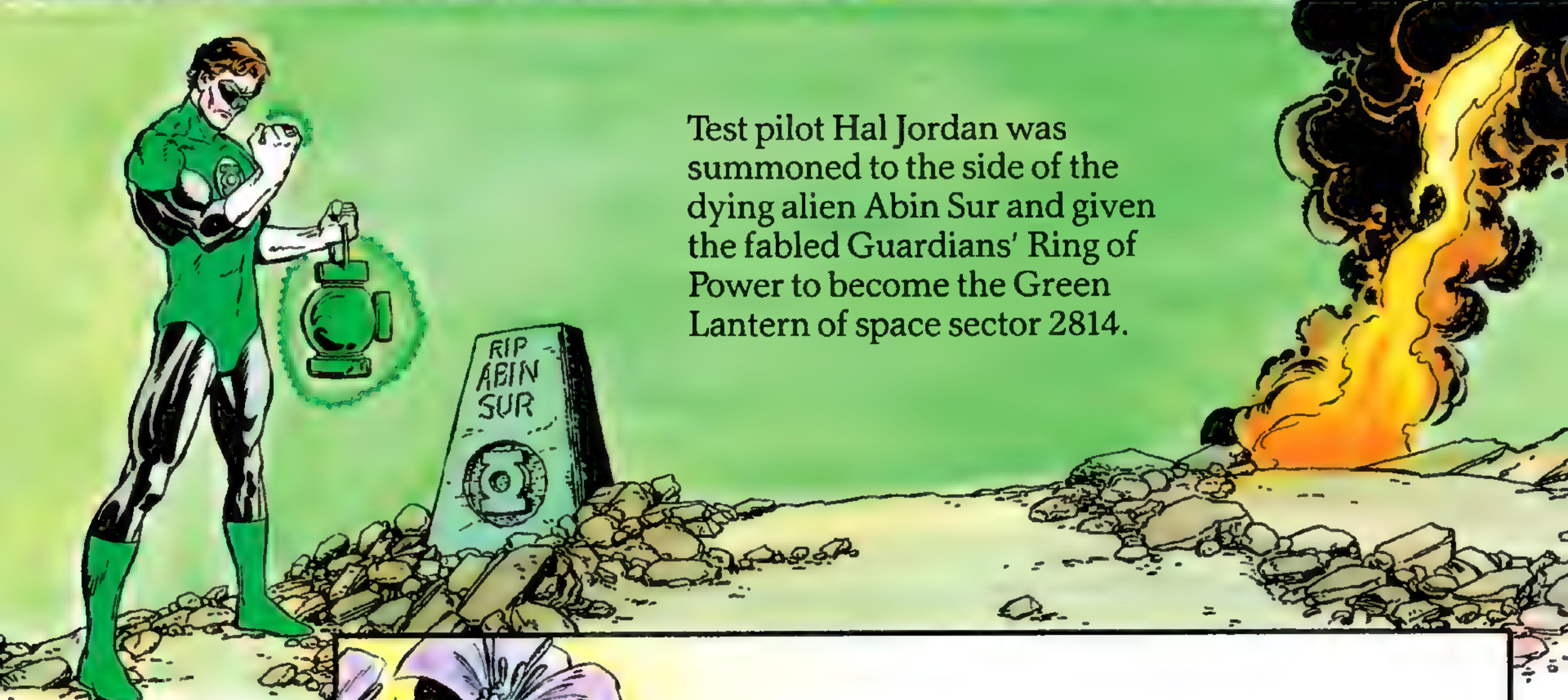


In Gotham City, the child orphaned by a killer's gun sharpened both his mind and body to a keen razor's edge. With his young partner Robin, the Boy Wonder, Bruce Wayne became a cancer on the underworld in the form of the Dark Knight Detective—The Batman.

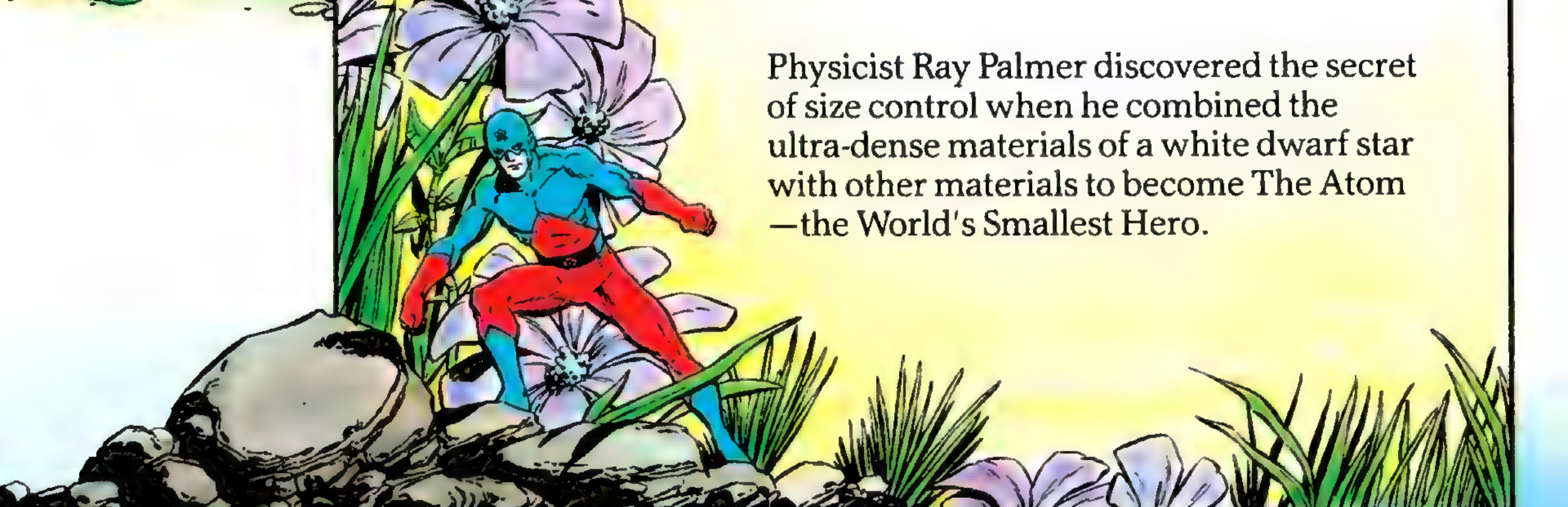


The time for heroes had returned. Among the first of the new breed was police scientist Barry Allen, who survived a chemical explosion to become The Flash, the fastest man on Earth.

Test pilot Hal Jordan was summoned to the side of the dying alien Abin Sur and given the fabled Guardians' Ring of Power to become the Green Lantern of space sector 2814.



Katar Hol and his wife Shayera Thal came to Earth to study terran police methods. Merging the weapons of Earth's past with their alien technology, these law officers from the planet Thanagar fought evil as Hawkman and Hawkgirl.

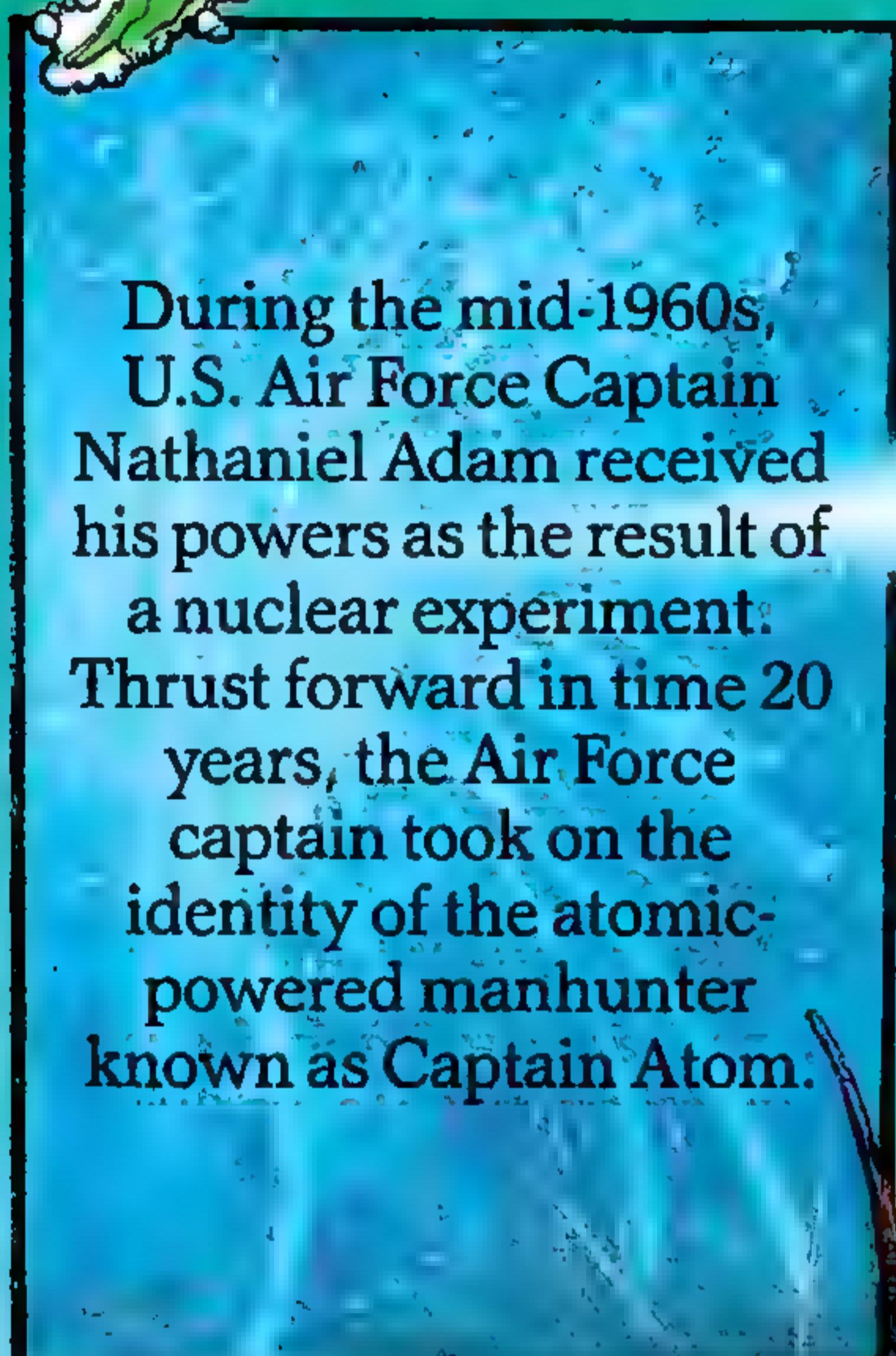


Physicist Ray Palmer discovered the secret of size control when he combined the ultra-dense materials of a white dwarf star with other materials to become The Atom —the World's Smallest Hero.

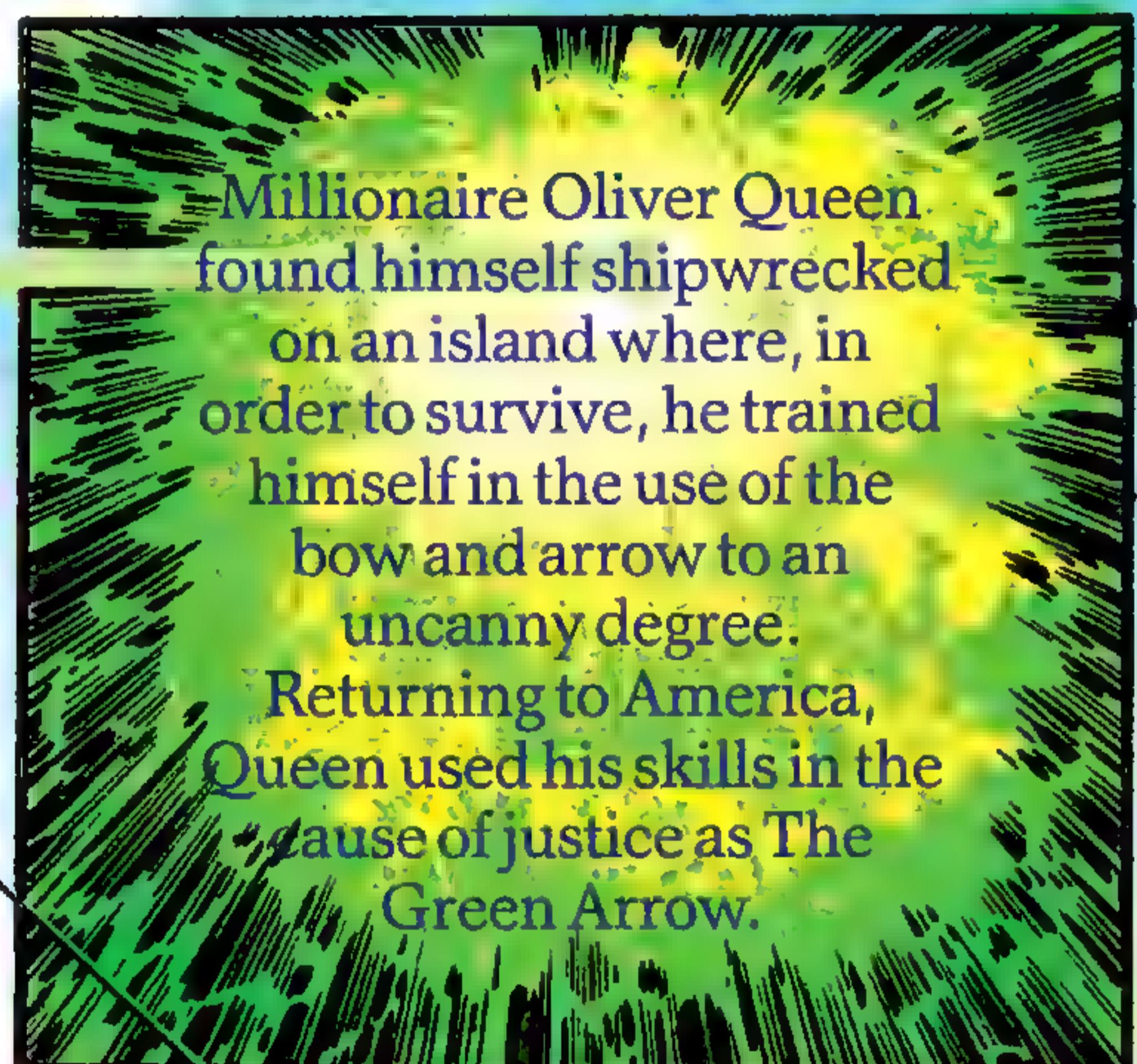
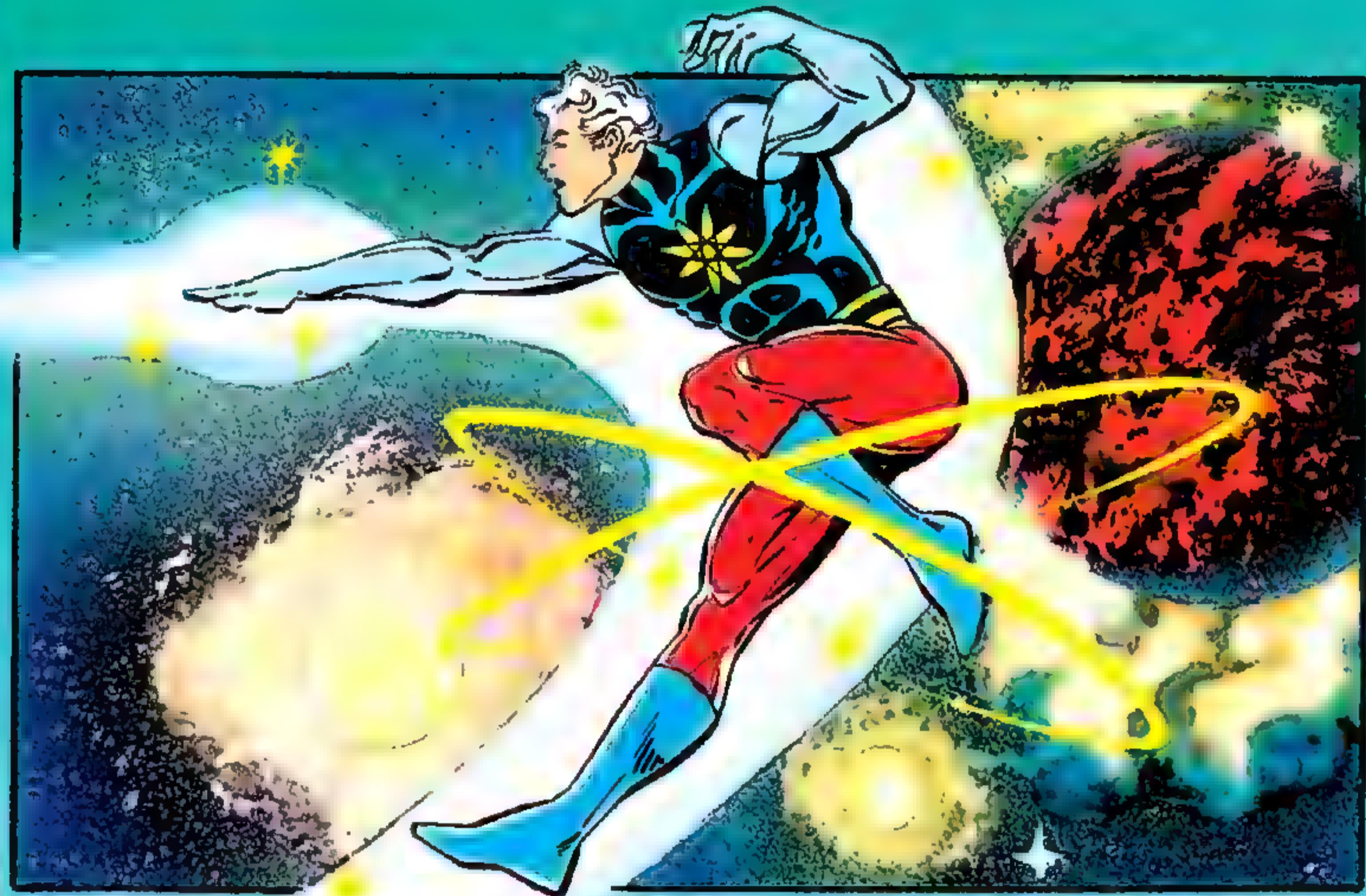




The hybrid from Atlantis finally came forth as Aquaman, King of the Seven Seas.



During the mid-1960s, U.S. Air Force Captain Nathaniel Adam received his powers as the result of a nuclear experiment. Thrust forward in time 20 years, the Air Force captain took on the identity of the atomic-powered manhunter known as Captain Atom.



Millionaire Oliver Queen found himself shipwrecked on an island where, in order to survive, he trained himself in the use of the bow and arrow to an uncanny degree. Returning to America, Queen used his skills in the cause of justice as The Green Arrow.

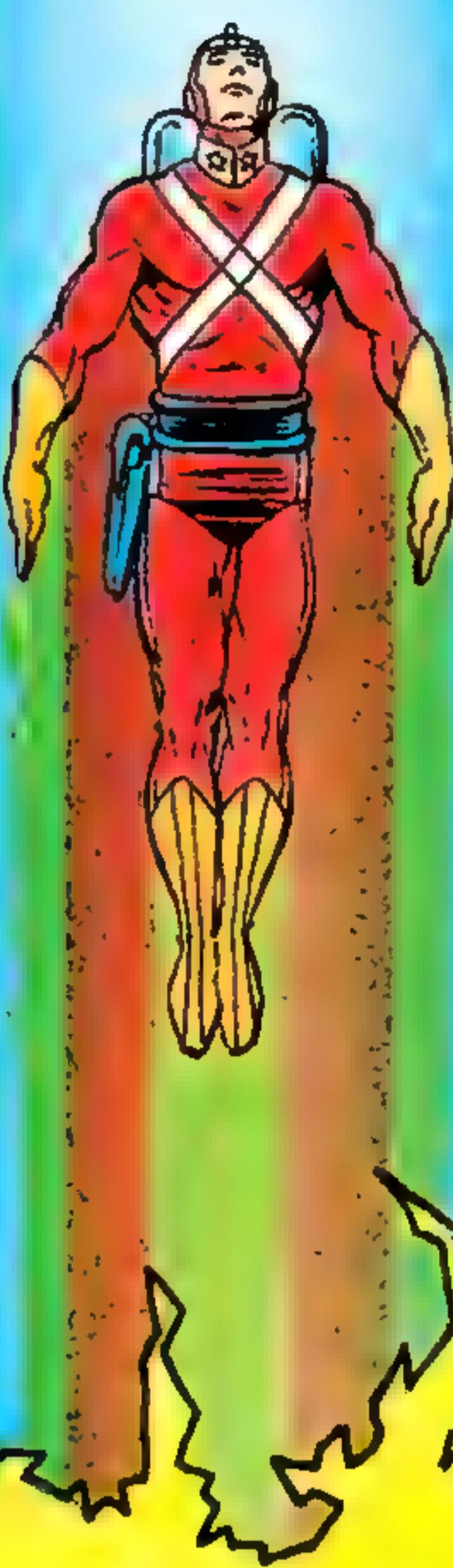
Dan Garrett, the original Blue Beetle, perished saving the life of his friend and former student, Ted Kord, who then dedicated his life to the cause of justice. Creating an awesome arsenal of weapons, the greatest of which was the high-flying Bug, Kord fights crime as the second Blue Beetle.



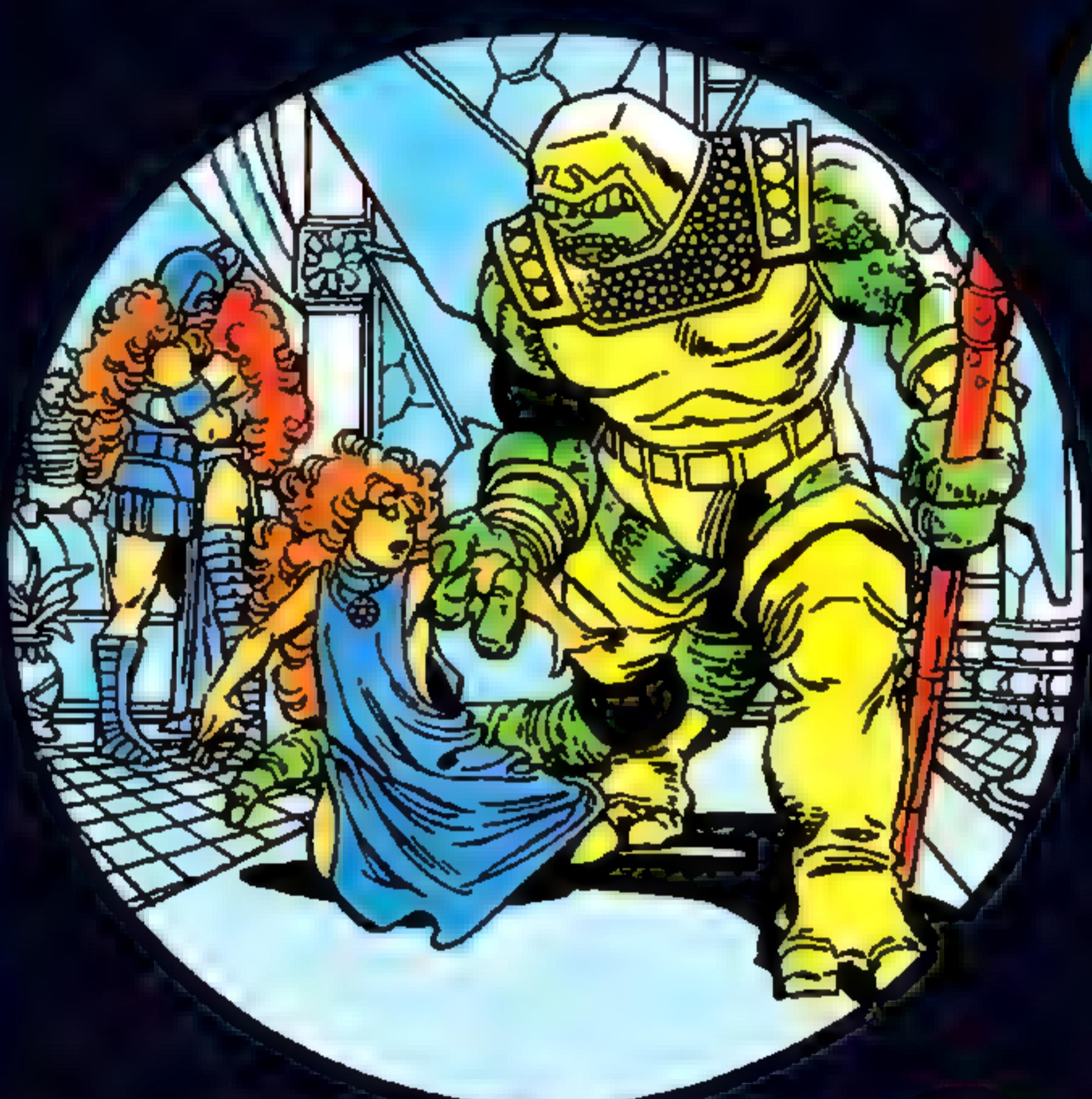
For ten billion years the Guardians of the Universe have preserved the heroic tradition, ever recruiting new warriors to fight in the cause of justice.



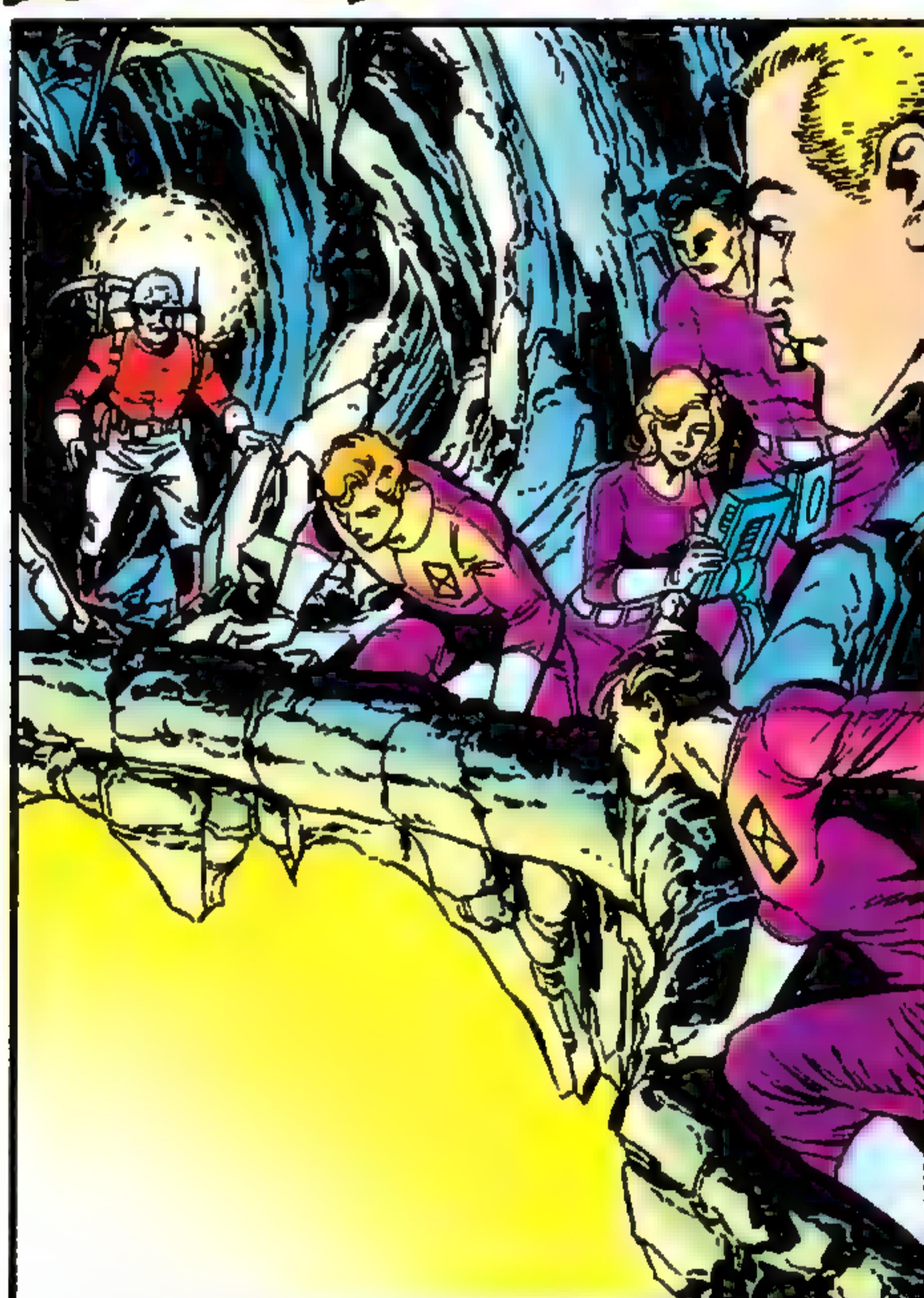
Their vigilance in the name of universal peace never weakens. The Green Lantern Corps continues to battle evil wherever it is found.



But not even the Guardians can erase all injustice. In the Vegan star system the tyrannical Citadel Empire brutally conquers world after world.

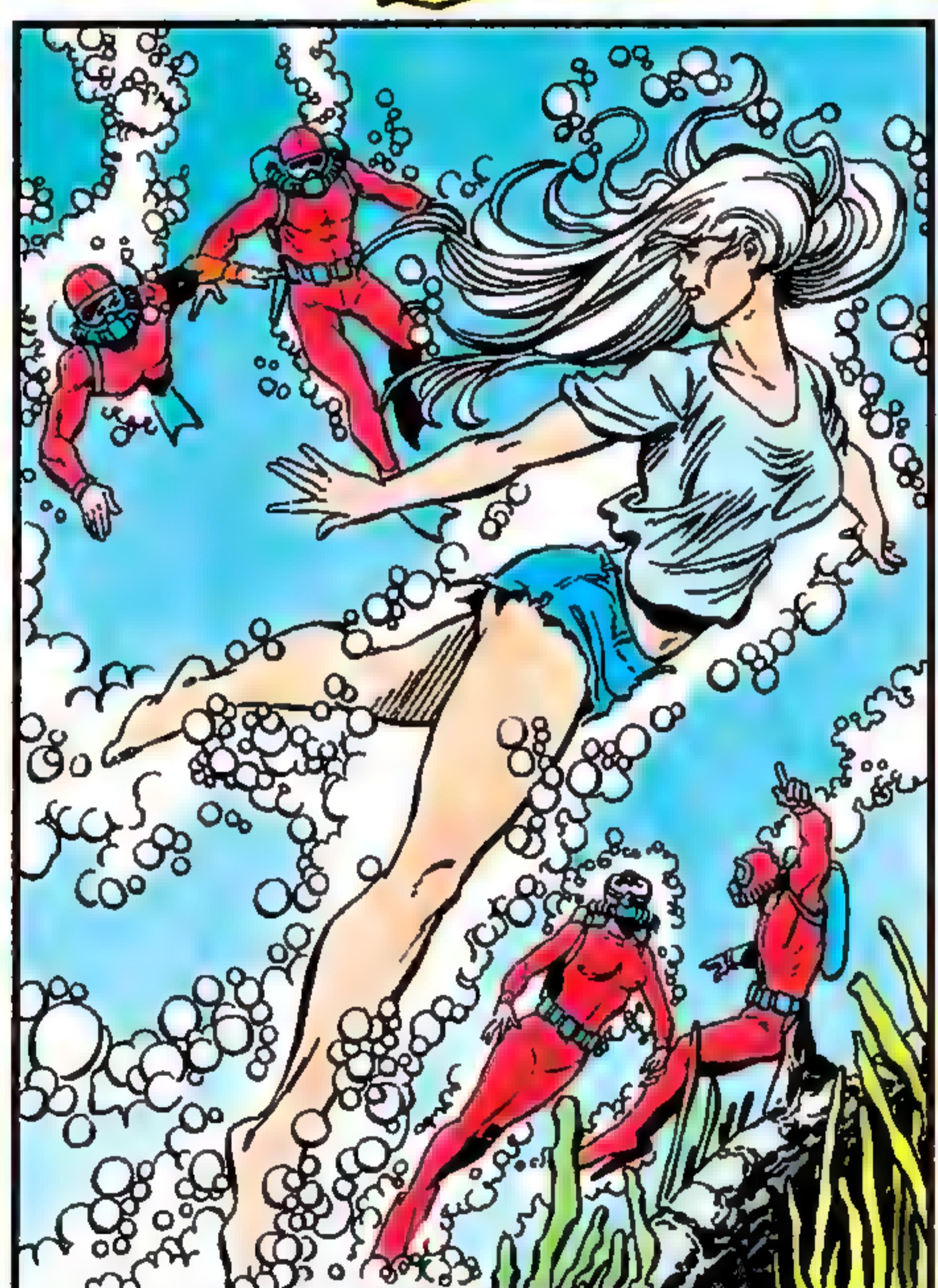


The planet Tamaran is conquered and their Princess is enslaved. But young Koriand'r would one day return to Tamaran to help destroy the Citadel despots.



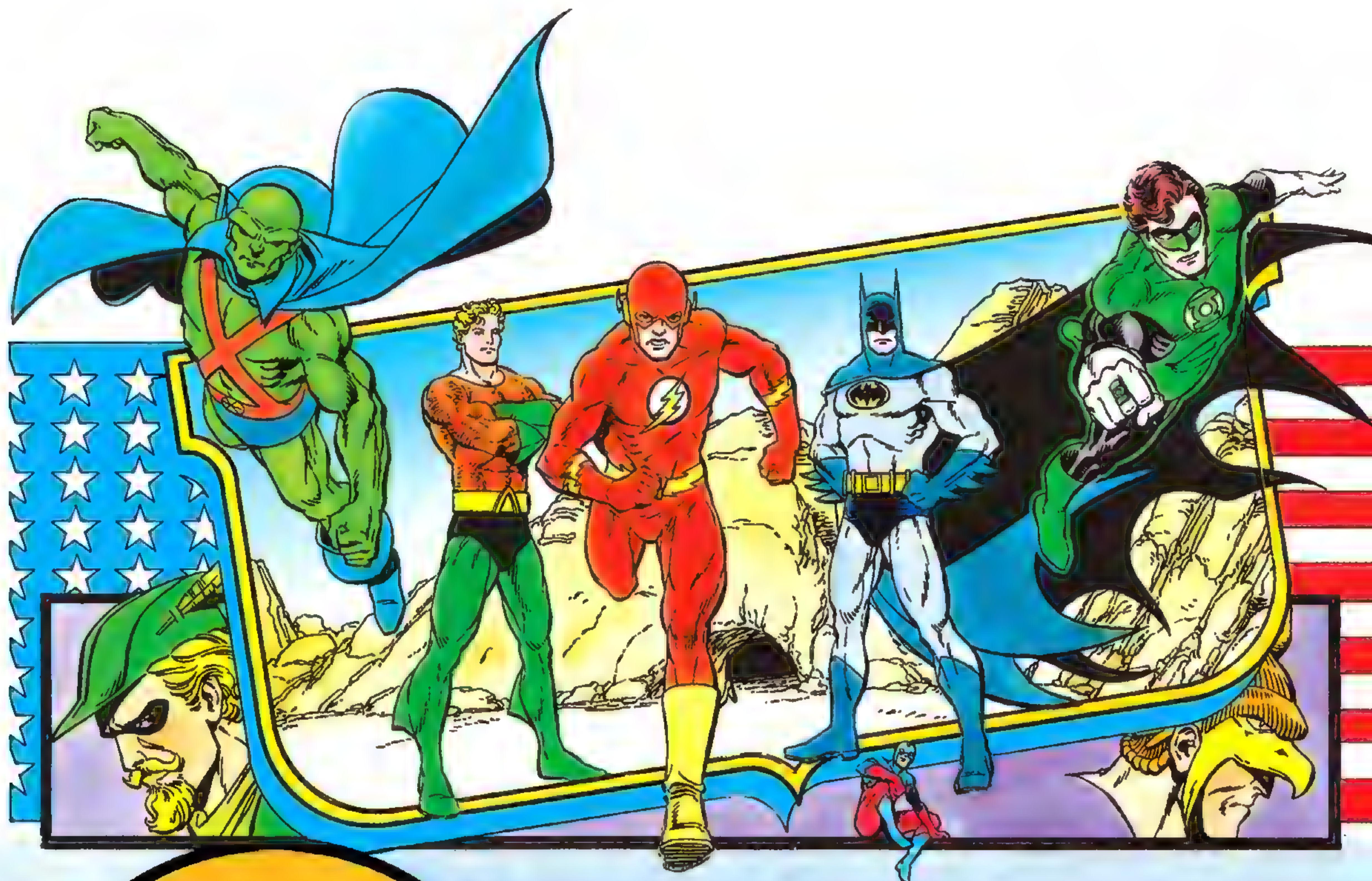
On Earth, the heroic tradition continues. Scientists such as geologist Cave Carson left the safety of the laboratory to help mankind in times of danger, joining courageous adventurers such as The Challengers of the Unknown.

Archaeologist Adam Strange was transported accidentally more than 25 trillion miles from Earth to the planet Rann. There he became their greatest champion, saving their troubled planet from peril after peril.



Heroes are found everywhere, from deep space to the depths of the seven seas...from ordinary divers such as the famed Sea Devils, to mysterious beauties such as the enigmatic Dolphin.

This was now the Silver Age of heroes, and some of the greatest who ever lived banded together to fight evil on Earth and throughout the stars. Inspired by the wartime exploits of the famed All-Stars and the Justice Society, these young heroes took the name the Justice League of America.



While the adult heroes formed what was to become the greatest of all super-teams, their young partners banded together as well, forming the first version of The Teen Titans.



But not all super-heroes are born; some are made: of iron and lead, of platinum and tin, of gold and mercury. Under the inventive eye of Dr. Will Magnus came the Metal Men.





I asked The Monitor what spark, what inner drive, what common denominator existed between all these people. What could drive Ultra, the Multi-Alien? What could drive B'wana Beast? What made young Robby Reed risk his life time and time again when he would Dial "H" for Hero? I understood the magician Zatanna—her father, the great Zatara, was of the Golden Age of Heroes—and I understood the philosophy that made Peter Cannon don the guise of Thunderbolt.

Born in another galaxy on a planet of water, Mera possessed great powers, and Metamorpho, the Element Man, could reshape his body into almost any form he wished. They possessed powers which made them special, and were almost invulnerable to harm. But why do those without unique abilities risk their lives without promise of reward?



They came from everywhere, and in all forms and disguises. From the mysterious faceless crimefighter known as The Question to the supernatural wizard called Prince Ra-Man.

At times, the way fate creates its heroes appears almost capricious. Scientist Bruce Gordon appeared normal, but the rays of a total eclipse would change the young scientist into the evil Eclipso.

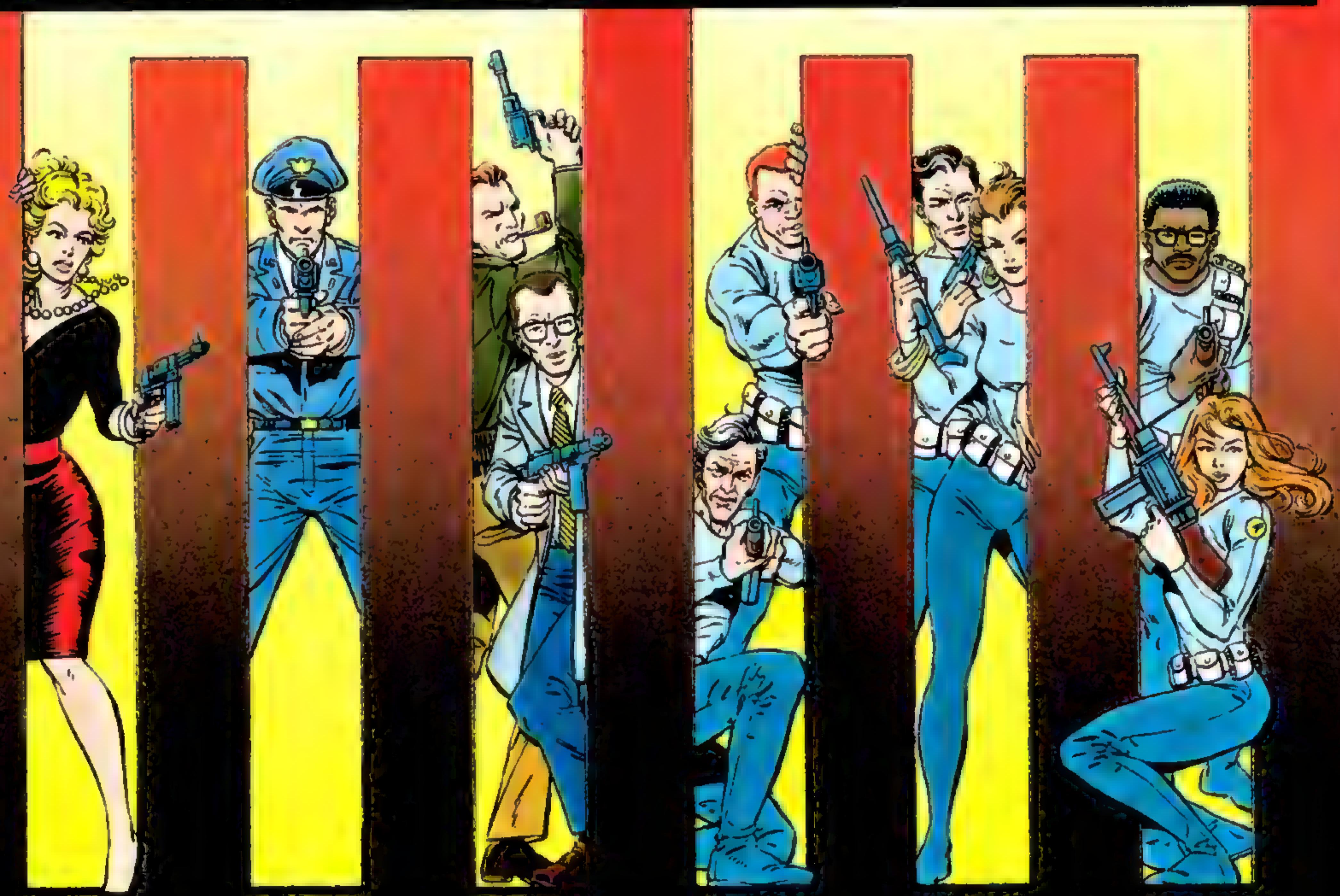
Boston Brand suffered the most capricious of all fates when he was killed by a cadre of assassins only to be resurrected as Deadman.

Aboard the Monitor's satellite I met hundreds of Earth's most courageous souls. People like Buddy Baker, the Animal Man; Jack Ryder, the fearsome Creeper; Johnny Mann, The Son of Vulcan; literally hundreds of brave men and women who risked their lives for the lives of others.

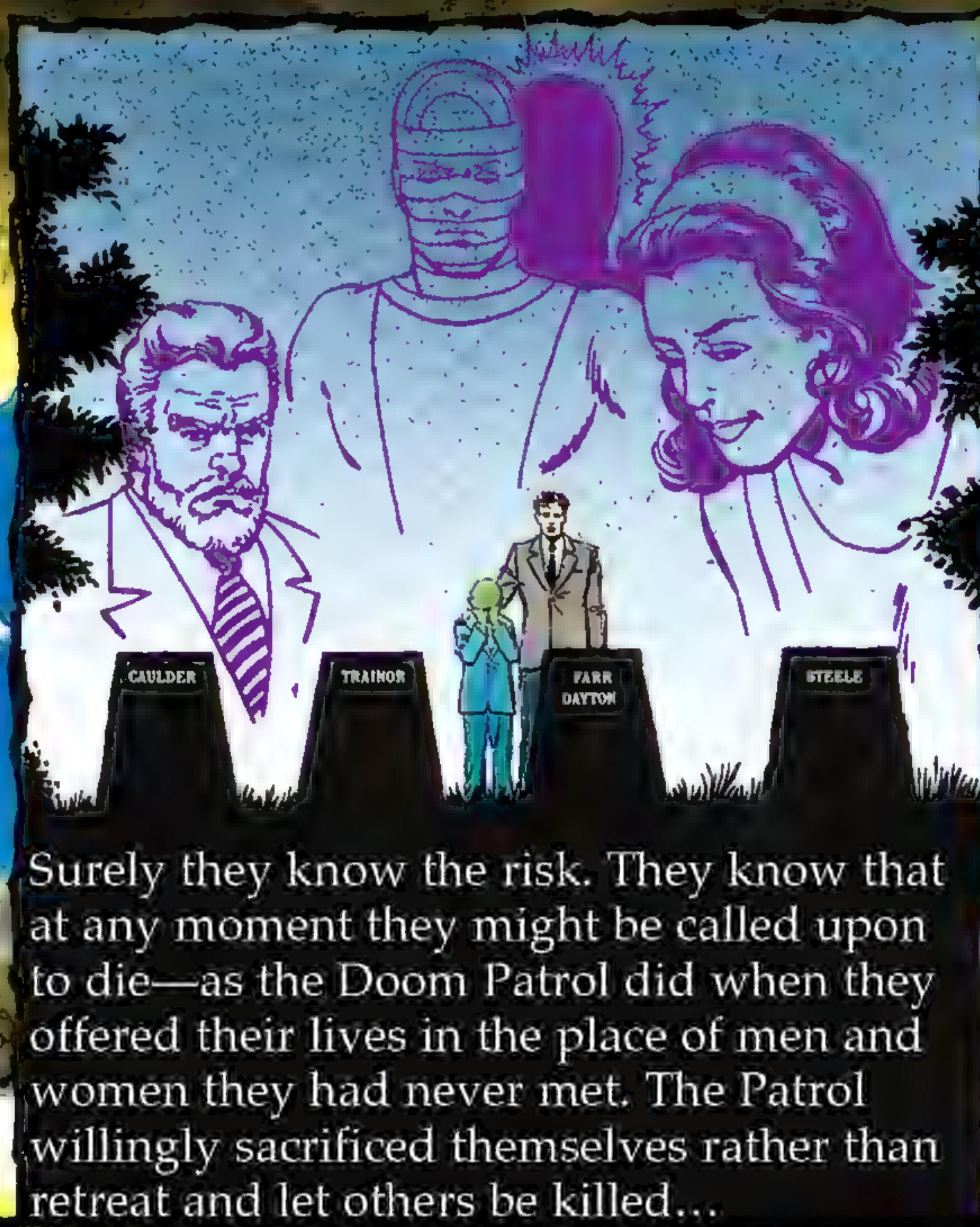




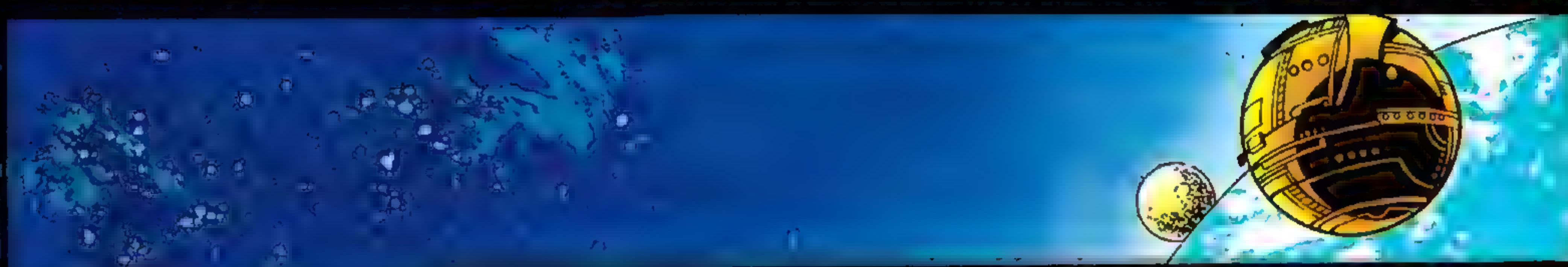
What could make men such as King Faraday and Sarge Steel join in the battle against evil? What could motivate Rick Flag, Jr. to risk not only his life but the lives of his friends in re-forming The Suicide Squad?



Perhaps the mysterious Mockingbird originally blackmailed the individuals who formed The Secret Six, but why did they relish their every assignment? Did they have some secret drive which pushed them ever further into missions of danger? What is it that makes one a Hero?

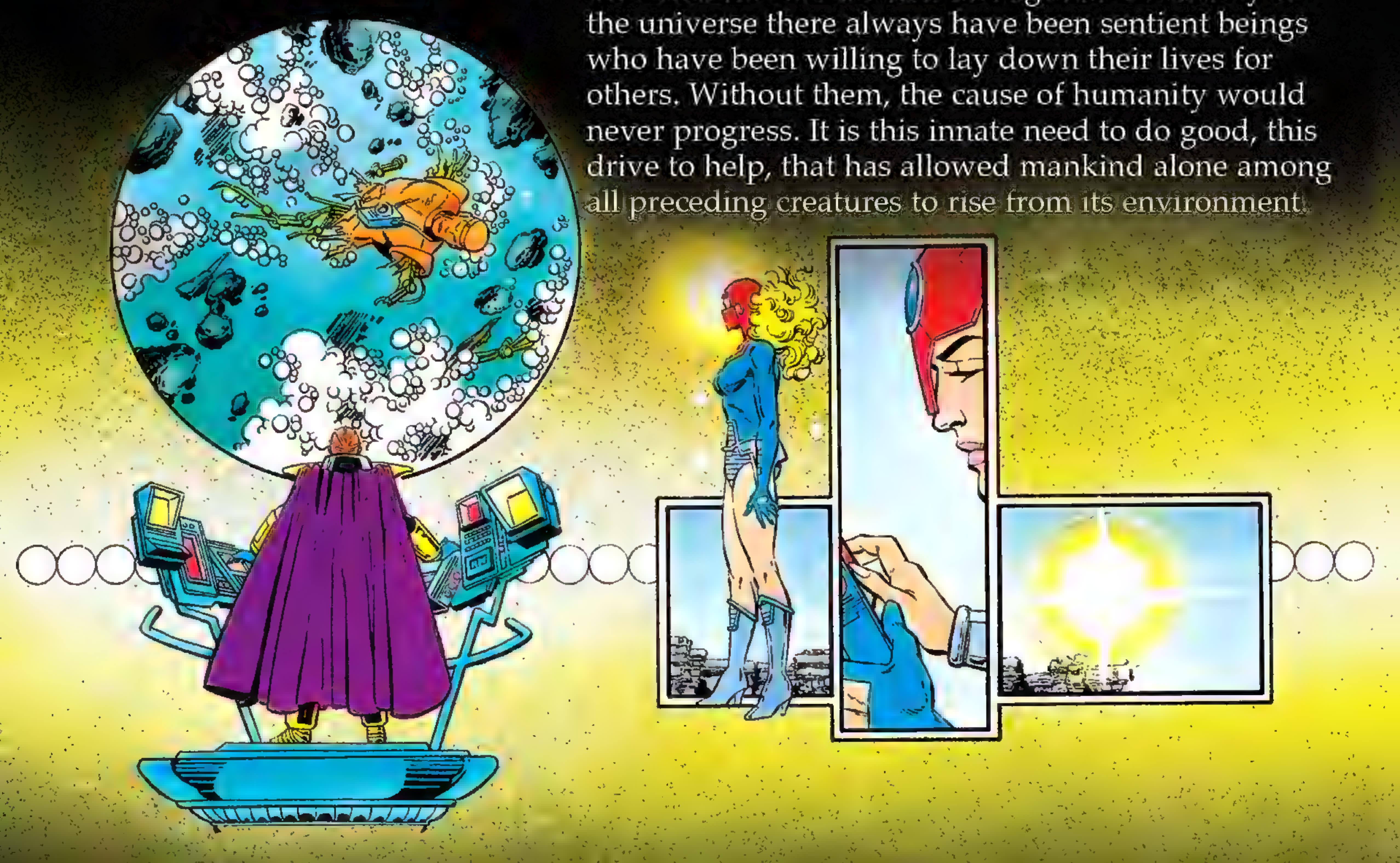


Surely they know the risk. They know that at any moment they might be called upon to die—as the Doom Patrol did when they offered their lives in the place of men and women they had never met. The Patrol willingly sacrificed themselves rather than retreat and let others be killed...



The so-called “freaks” of the Doom Patrol perished, but Robotman was rebuilt. Cliff Steele would sacrifice himself again and again when the need arose.

The Monitor told me that throughout the history of the universe there always have been sentient beings who have been willing to lay down their lives for others. Without them, the cause of humanity would never progress. It is this innate need to do good, this drive to help, that has allowed mankind alone among all preceding creatures to rise from its environment.





Heroes are not confined to Earth. Struggles for survival exist throughout the known universe, for wherever there is a society there will be those who seek its destruction.

The godlike beings of New Genesis—a world born in peace—faced their challenge from the hordes of dark Apokolips: a twisted mockery of a world shaped by the greatest evil the universe has ever known: Darkseid the Destroyer. His mad lust called for the total destruction of his enemies, and he was, at long last, mere days from victory.

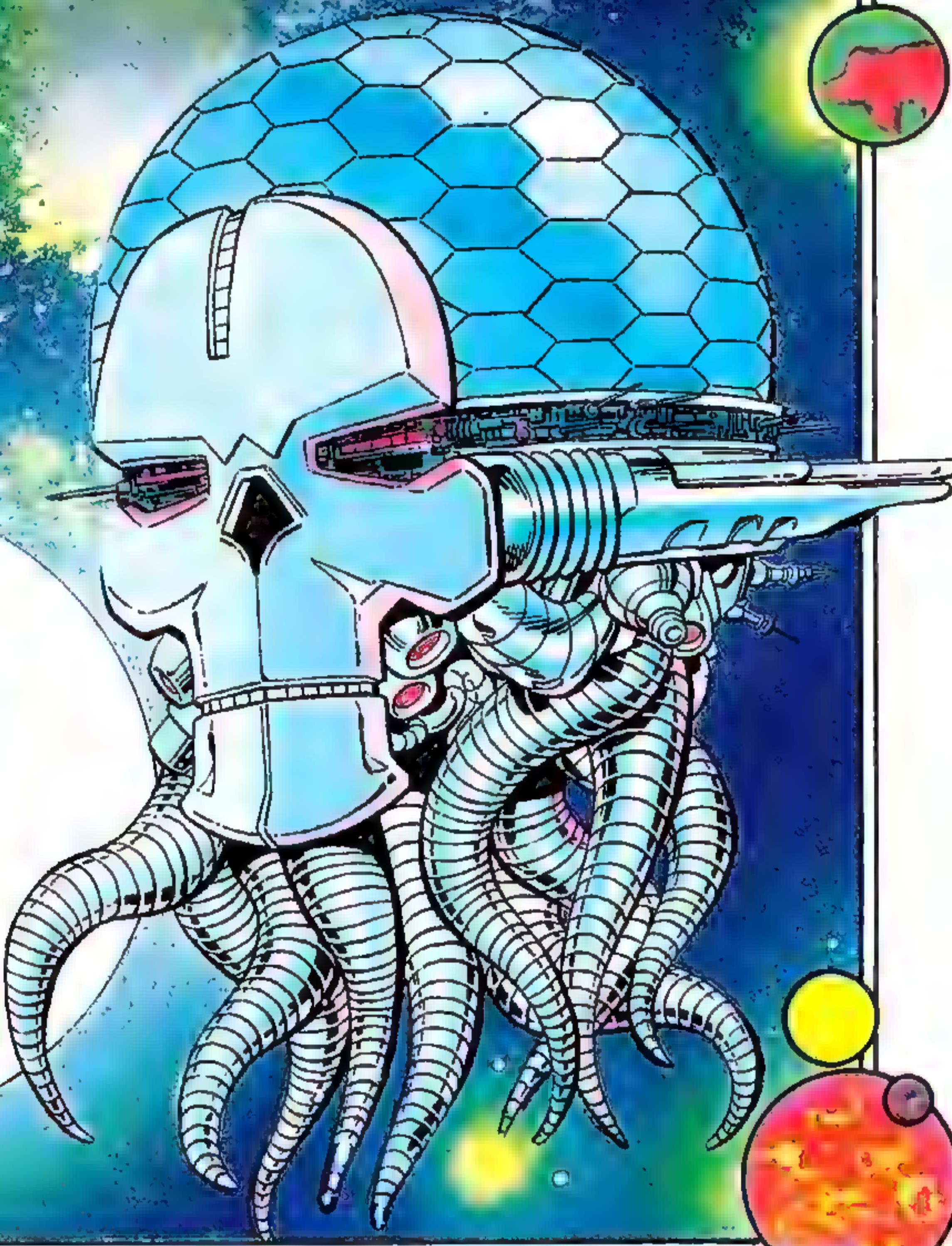
Darkseid's Hunger Dogs swarmed across New Genesis, leveling its jeweled beauty and replacing it with the scarred trenches of war. A great battle raged and New Genesis was destroyed, but its heroes and their heroic spirit survived in the great sprawling citadel called Supertown.

From the New Gods and The Forever People to Mister Miracle and the Black Racer, the survivors of New Genesis banded together and took what was left of their race to a peaceful sector of the universe.





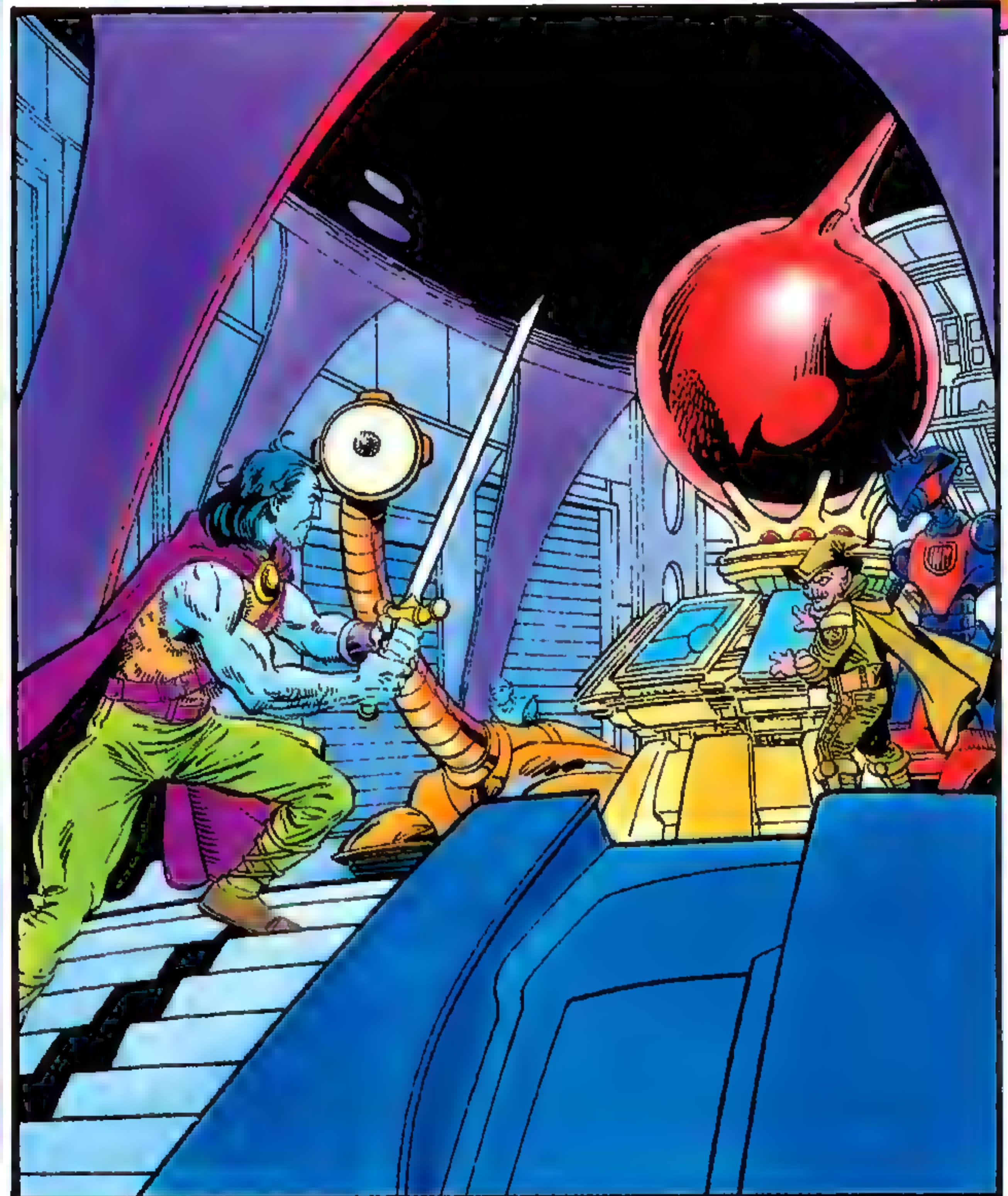
The robot rebellion on Colu brought about the first of the robot tyrants. Named Brainiac, his orders were to travel the galaxy to rid each world of its human inhabitants...



Brainiac was later destroyed by the Omega Men when it attacked the Vegan star system.

...would be created years after the first was destroyed. This Brainiac, unlike its predecessor, had its origins as much in the laboratories of Earth as in the stars.

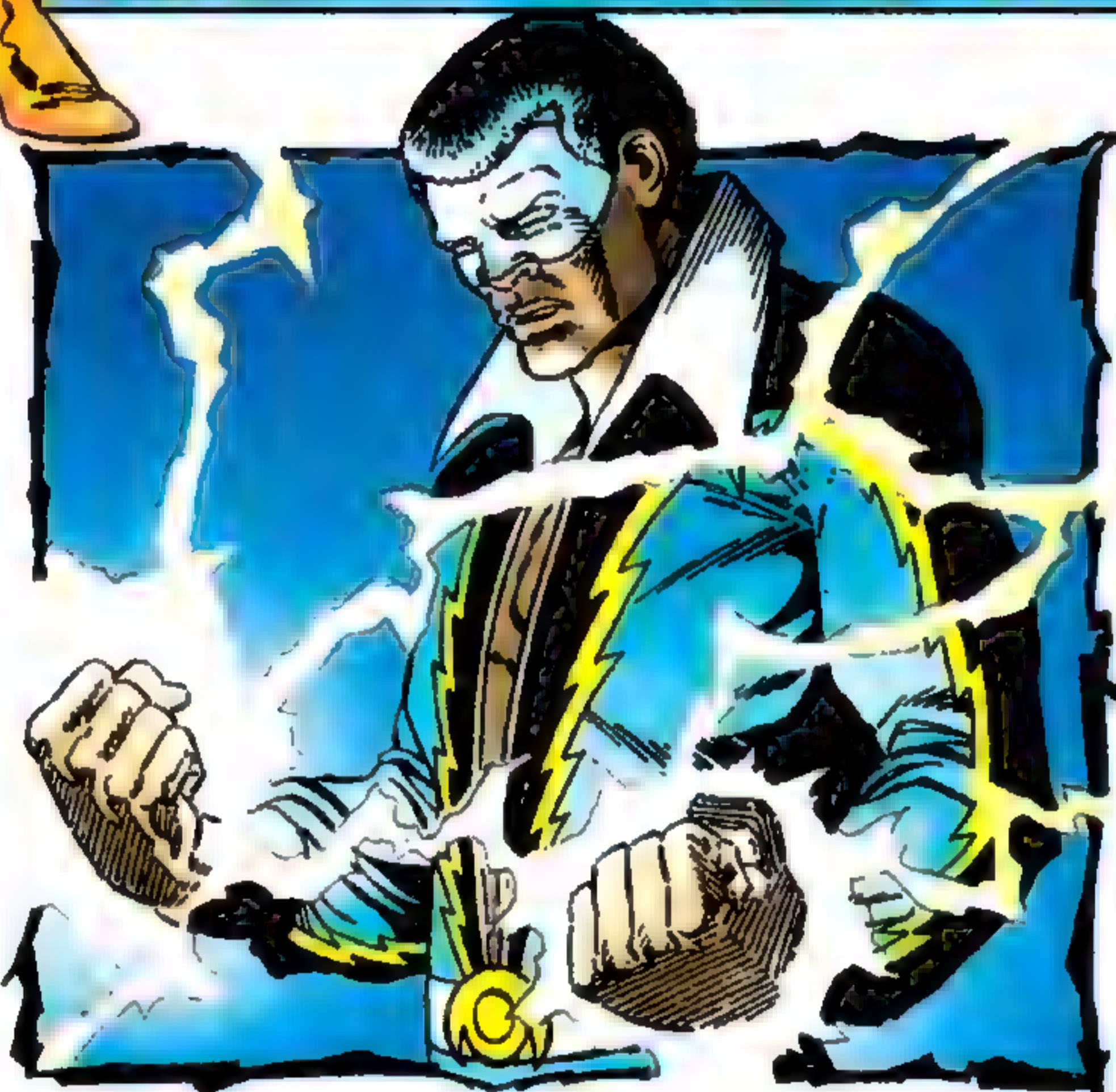
Malok VIII, as Earth, was a nexus for heroes. Mallor, the first of these heroes, saved Malok from destruction and gained great powers. His heroic lineage extends into the thirtieth century and beyond.



**O**n Earth, the remains of Cliff Steele—Robotman of the Doom Patrol—were discovered by scientist Will Magnus. Robotman was rebuilt, then teamed with Tempest, Negative Woman, and Celsius to form the New Doom Patrol: a driven group of outcasts operating without government sanction.



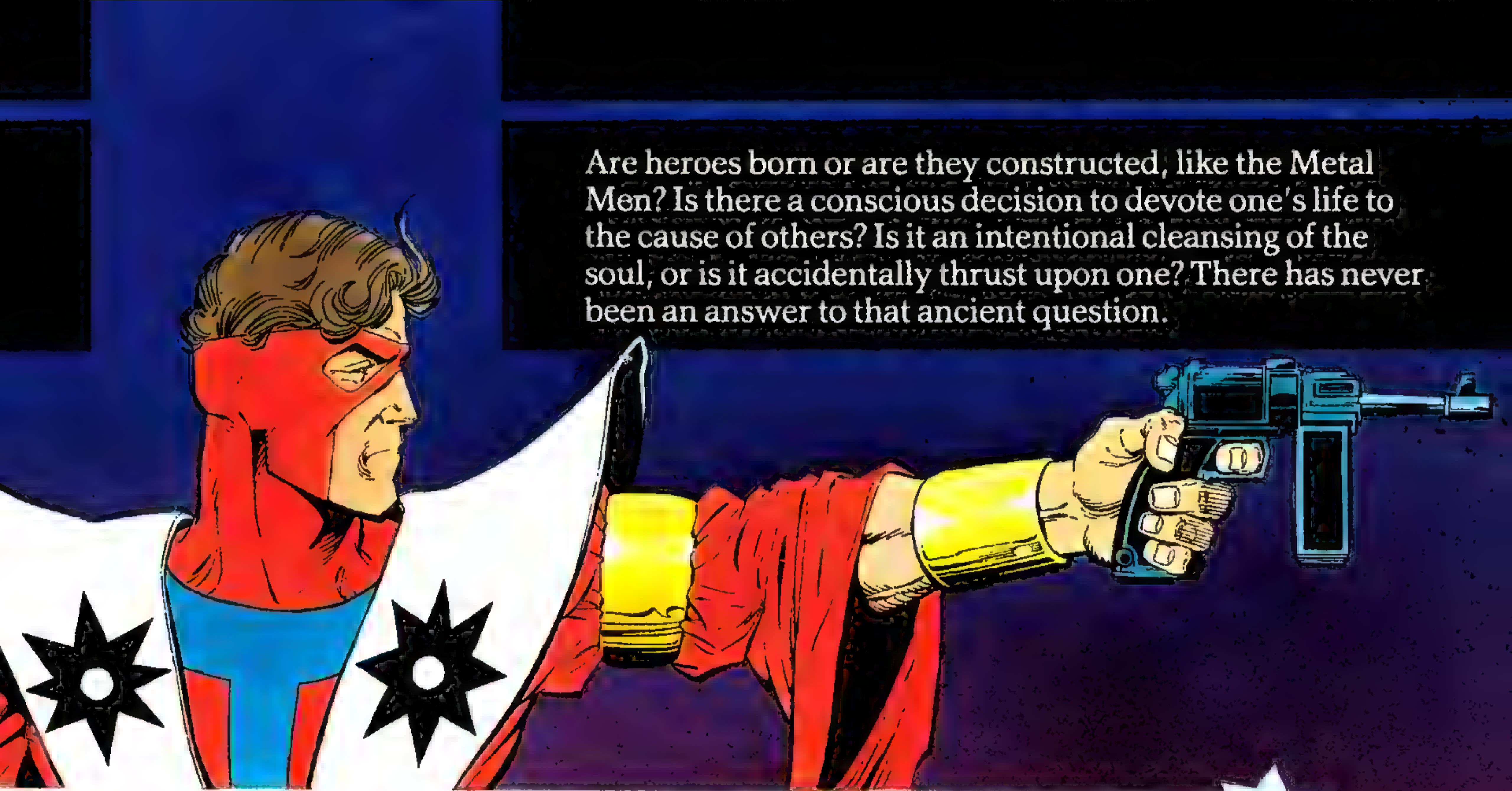
The Silver Age exploded with new heroes: mild-mannered Rose Forrest, unbeknownst even to herself, would become the terrifying Thorn;



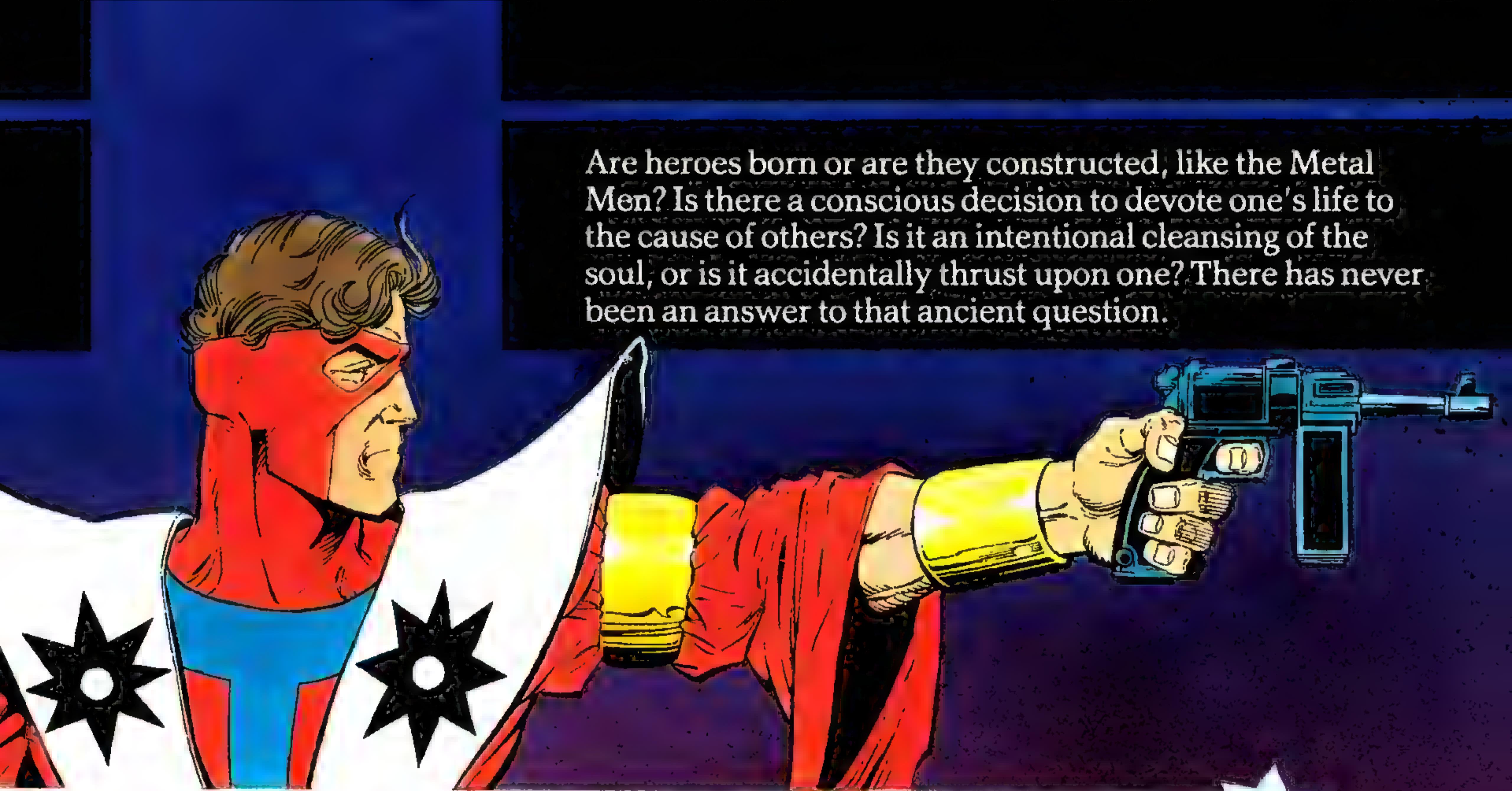
Teacher Jefferson Pierce was given great electrical powers and became Black Lightning;



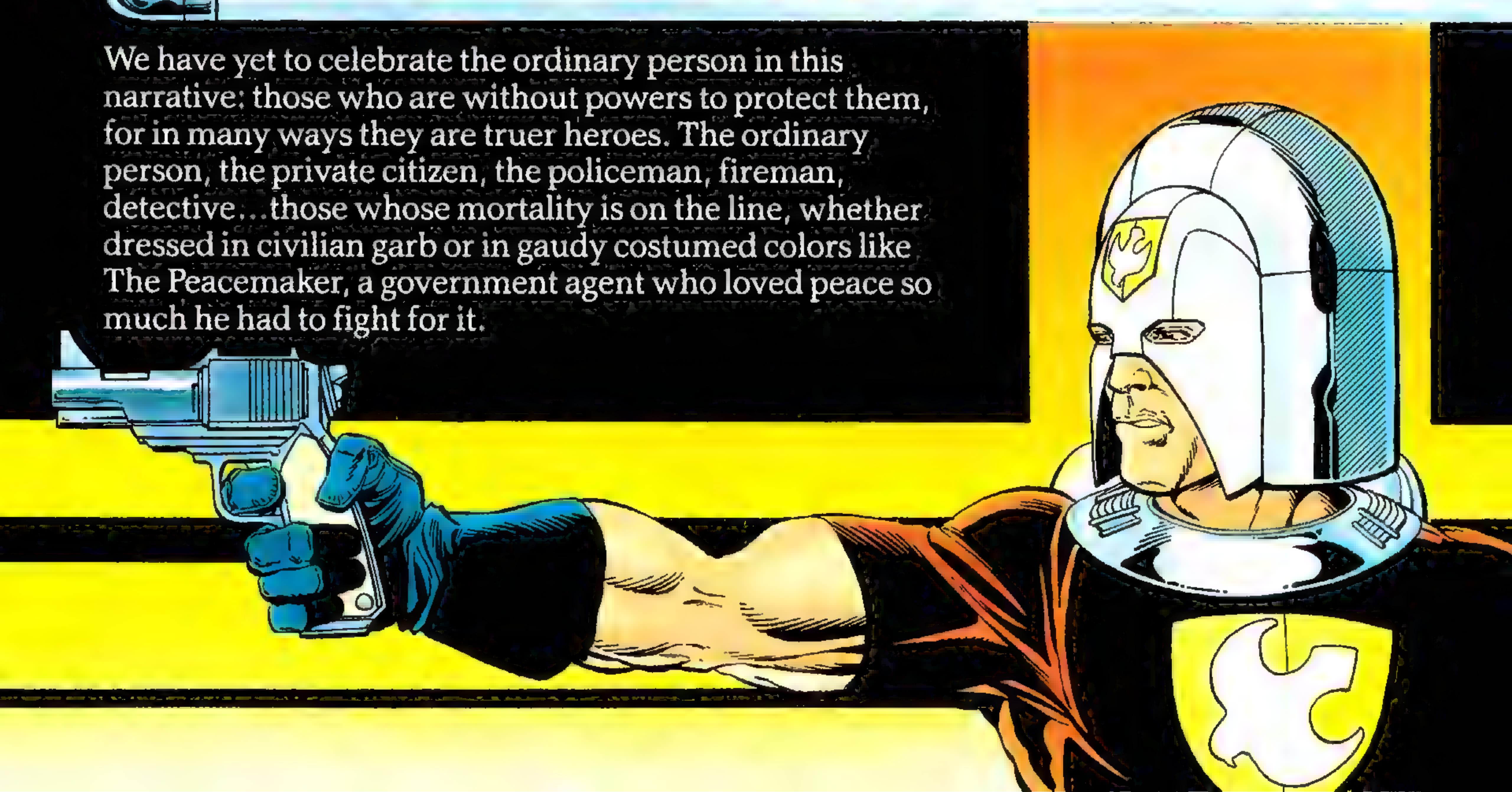
Scientist Alec Holland died in a chemical explosion, but his essence was reborn in the form of the sentient man-monster Swamp Thing.



Are heroes born or are they constructed, like the Metal Men? Is there a conscious decision to devote one's life to the cause of others? Is it an intentional cleansing of the soul, or is it accidentally thrust upon one? There has never been an answer to that ancient question.



We have yet to celebrate the ordinary person in this narrative: those who are without powers to protect them, for in many ways they are truer heroes. The ordinary person, the private citizen, the policeman, fireman, detective... those whose mortality is on the line, whether dressed in civilian garb or in gaudy costumed colors like The Peacemaker, a government agent who loved peace so much he had to fight for it.



What makes a hero?

Heroes with powers and heroes without... like Firestorm, the Nuclear Man, and Firehawk—both with powers that make them demigods—and Travis Morgan, the Warlord,

His name was Jemm, and the powers he brought from his native world of Saturn helped bring peace to the souls of men.

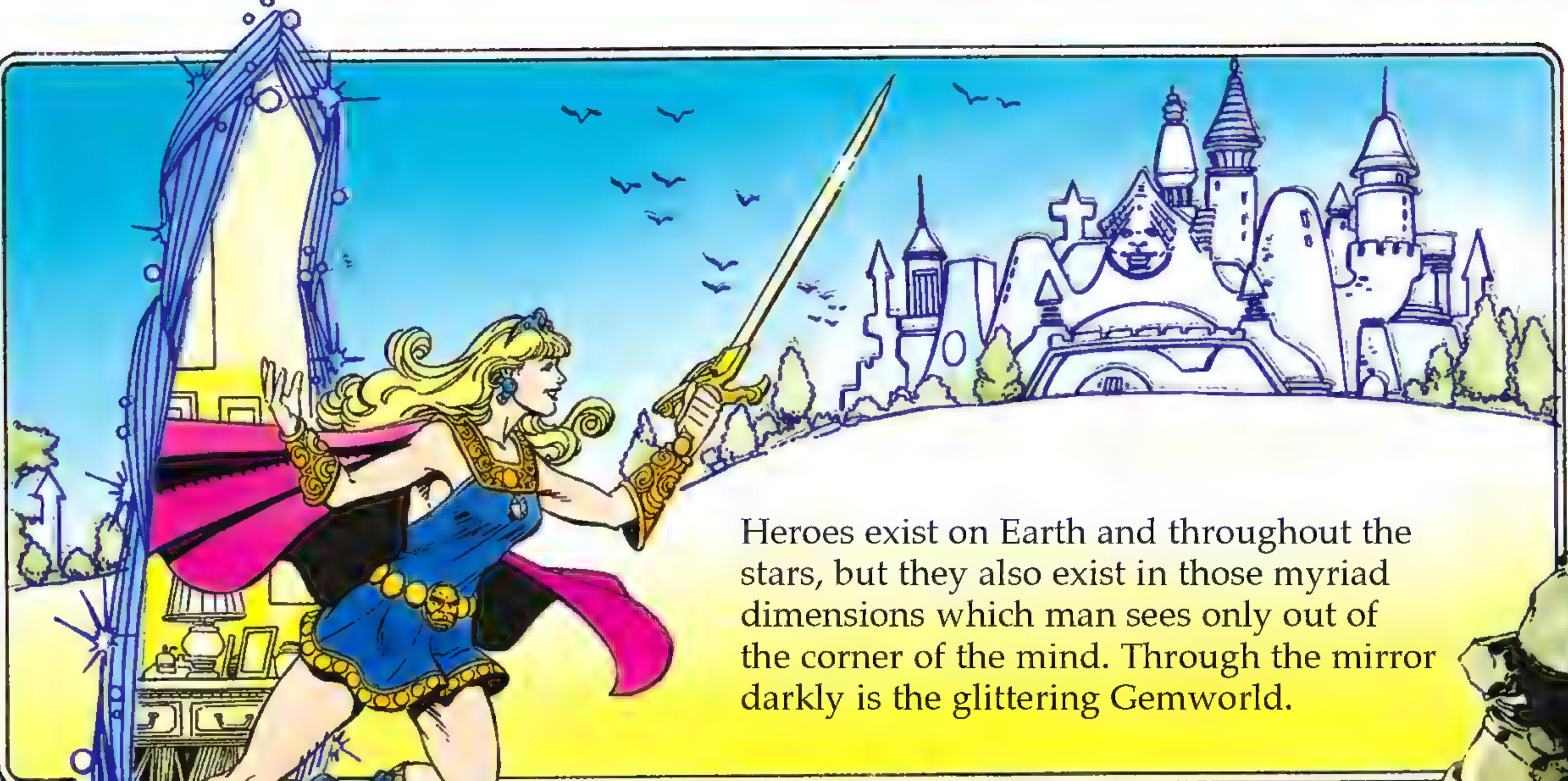
...who possesses nothing more than his brave soul and his natural skills

The Atomic Knight, who was born from the nightmarish fears of nuclear destruction.

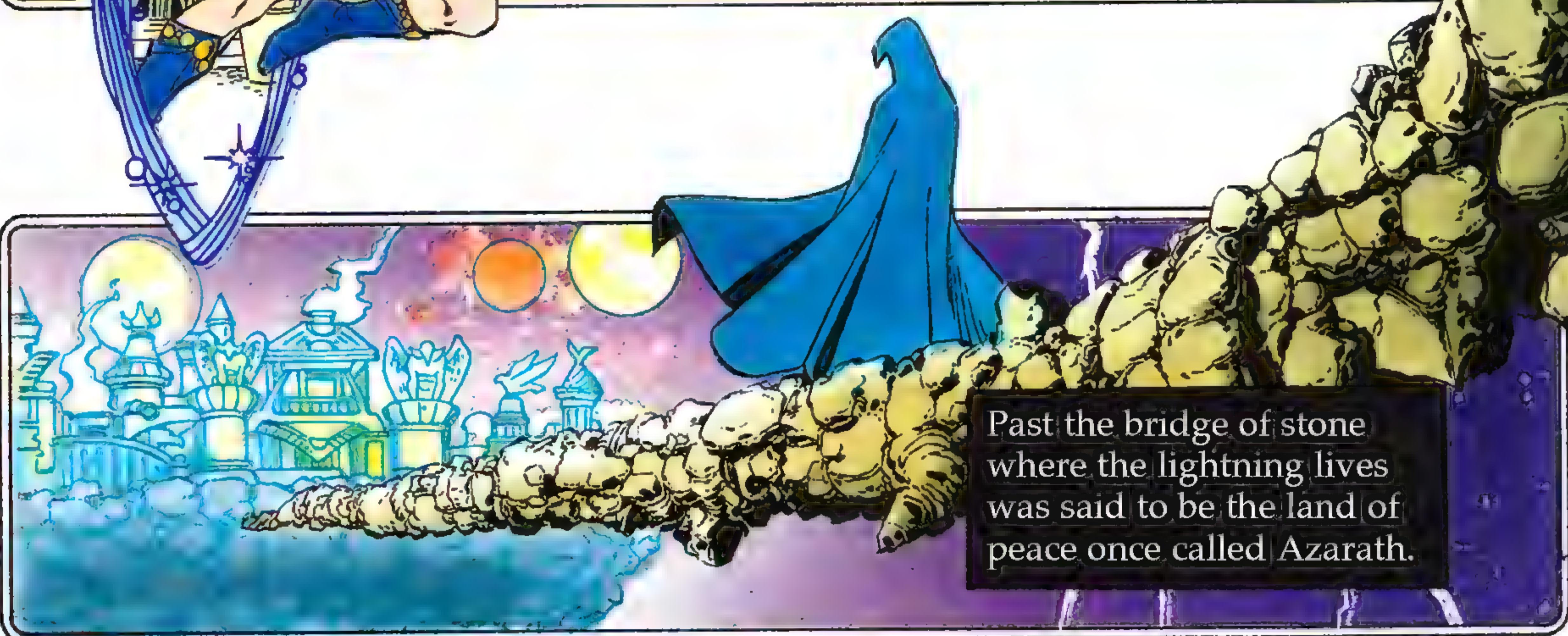
Can the mysterious Baron Winters be thought of as a hero? Rude, acerbic, certainly an elitist, his Night Force takes on missions that would frighten more gentle souls.

What makes a hero?

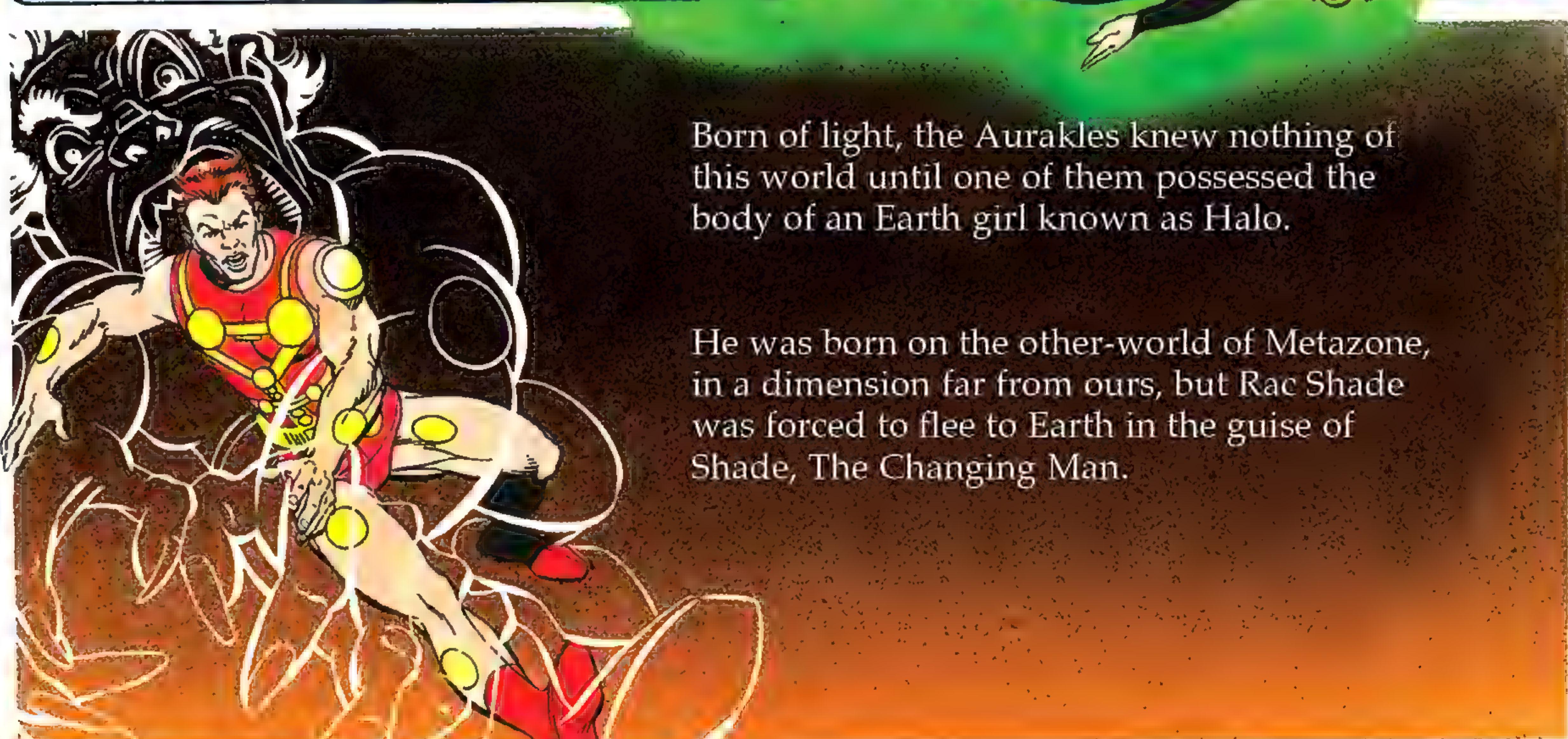
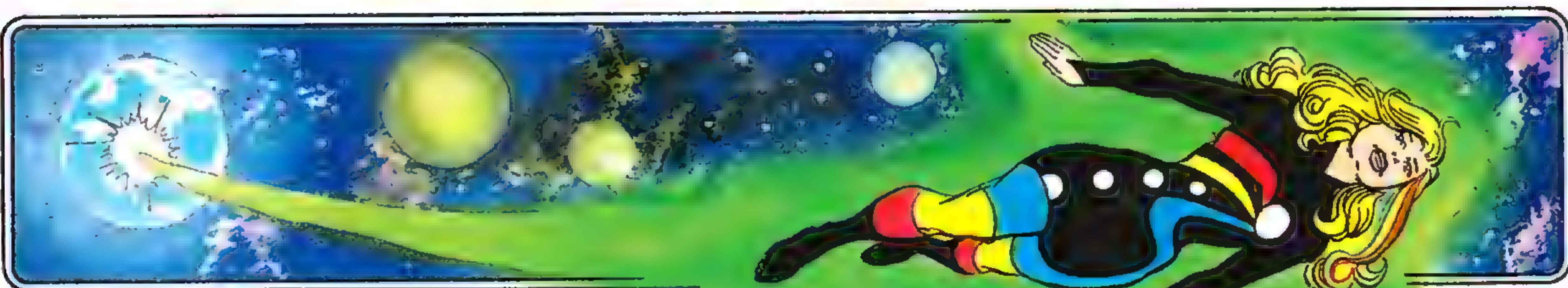
Perhaps the need to help others becomes greater than the desire to benefit oneself.



Heroes exist on Earth and throughout the stars, but they also exist in those myriad dimensions which man sees only out of the corner of the mind. Through the mirror darkly is the glittering Gemworld.



Past the bridge of stone  
where the lightning lives  
was said to be the land of  
peace once called Azarath.



Born of light, the Aurakles knew nothing of this world until one of them possessed the body of an Earth girl known as Halo.

He was born on the other-world of Metazone, in a dimension far from ours, but Rac Shade was forced to flee to Earth in the guise of Shade, The Changing Man.



I have asked this question before, but as long as I inscribe this narrative I am compelled to repeat it: Where do heroes come from? Are they the stuff of legend—remembered in the past but never truly existing—or are they reborn today, new and fresh and waiting for new life?

A subway station in San Francisco leads a young boy to discover a legend dimly remembered by mortals. Billy Batson stands on the threshold of a new existence: with one magic word—Shazam!—he becomes the World's Mightiest Mortal: Captain Marvel.

The new hero maintains a low profile, until Darkseid the Destroyer challenges the very soul of heroism and inspires Captain Marvel to take his rightful place alongside the legends of the universe.



The original Teen Titans disbanded three years after its inception as its members moved on through school and college. Some retired, others continued their unending quest against evil.

One year after the original group parted, a new Teen Titans was formed with some of the original members along with others the likes of which this world had never seen. The kidnapped alien princess from Tamarian joined with the demonic daughter from peaceful Azarath; a half-man, half-robot cyborg joined with a mute who could enter and control the bodies of his enemies.



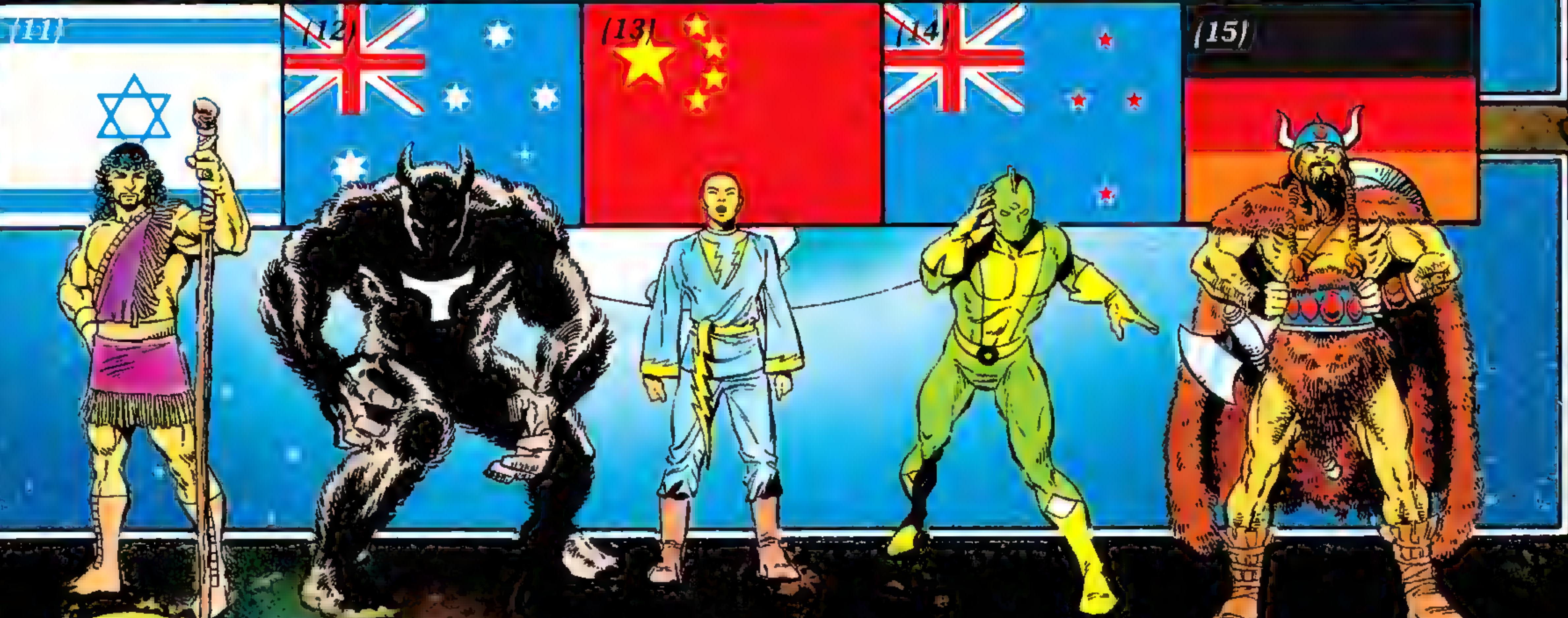
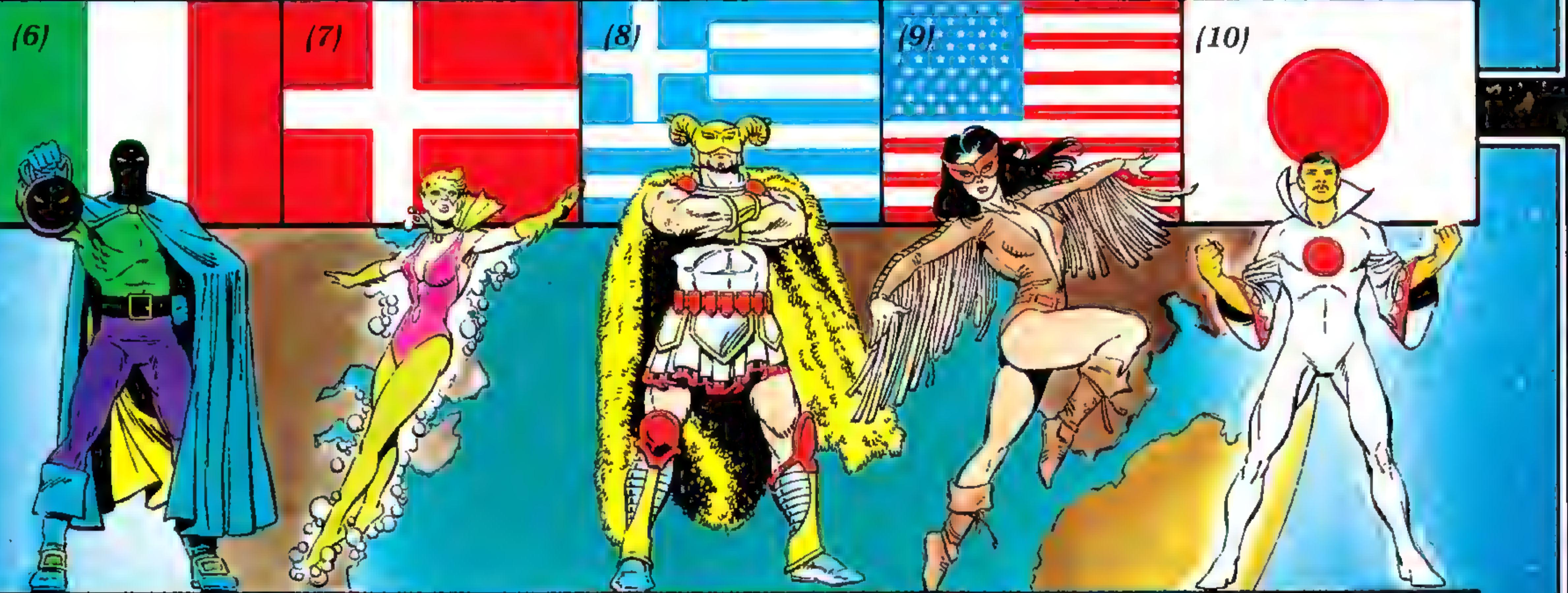
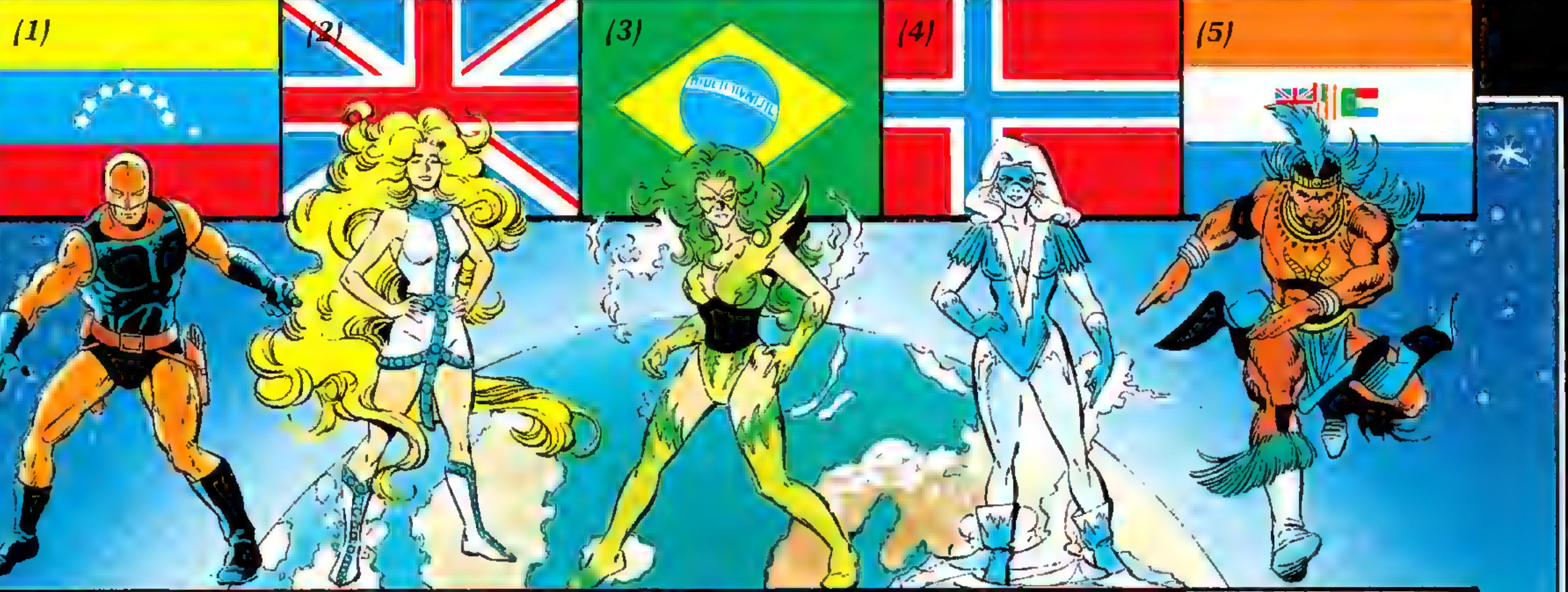
Halo joined with Black Lightning, Katana, Geo-Force, Looker, and Metamorpho to form The Outsiders.



This group that teamed new heroes with old was founded by the child who had seen his parents slain on a Gotham City street many years before. The Batman not only worked with The Outsiders, he also returned to battle alongside the newly re-formed Justice League of America, but not even the brilliant mind of the Dark Knight Detective could warn him that many members of this latest Justice League would not survive.



Thus far in this narrative, I have centered on the heroes of North America because this is where exists the greatest concentration of heroes. But there are heroes outside the United States, and many banded together to form The Global Guardians.

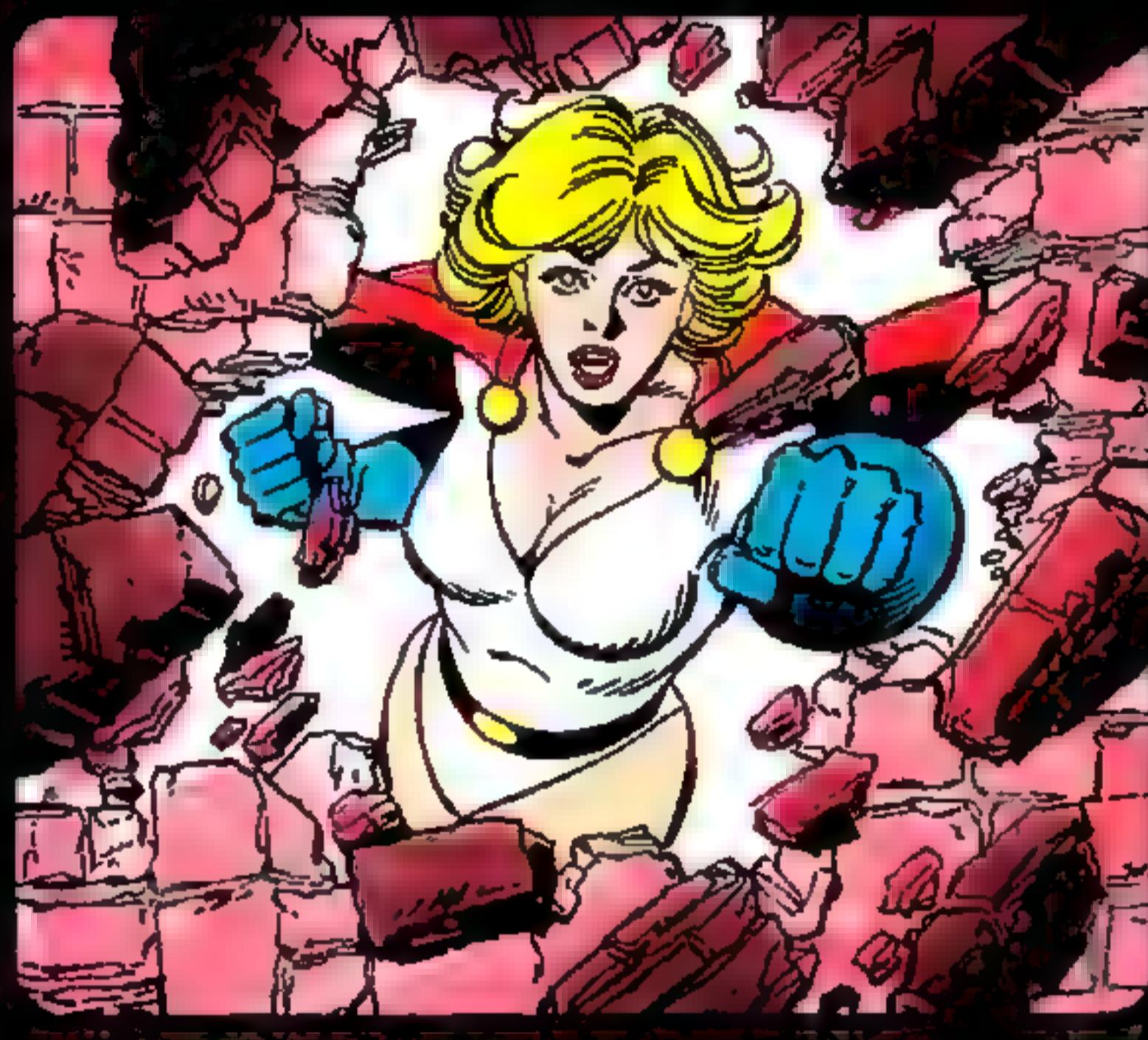


(1) Bushmaster  
(2) Godiva  
(3) Green Flame  
(4) Icemaiden  
(5) Impala  
(6) Jack O'Lantern  
(7) Little Mermaid  
(8) Olympian  
(9) Owlwoman  
(10) Rising Sun  
(11) Seraph  
(12) Tasmanian Devil  
(13) Thunderlord  
(14) Tuatara  
(15) Wild Huntsman  
(16) Red Star  
(17) Dr. Mist





The Blue Devil...  
...Power Girl...

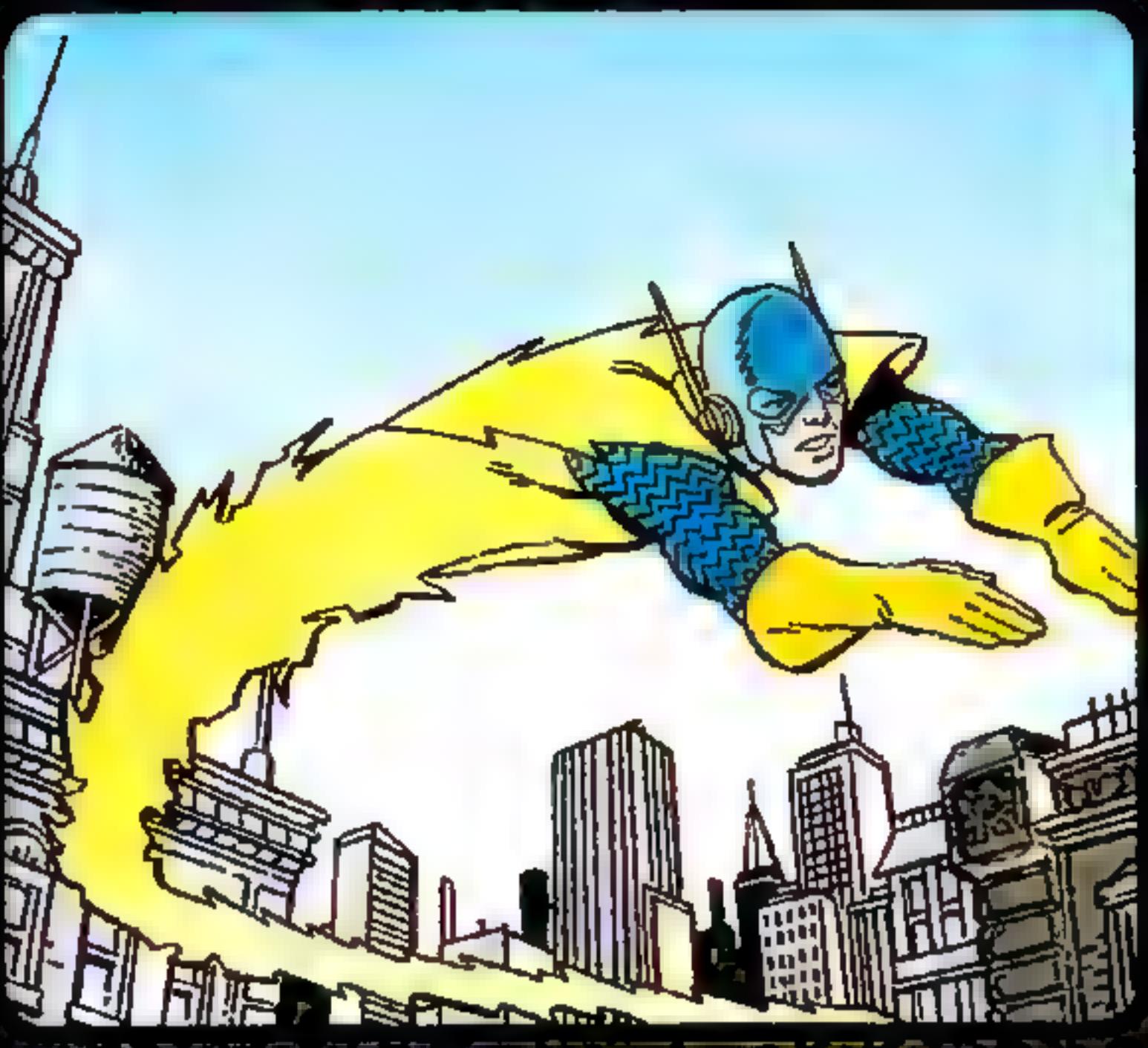


...the mysterious  
Black Orchid...

Still other heroes abound—

I must pause now for what is to become a personal history. Until now I have merely read the computer files of The Monitor, with my comments clearly marked. But now the history involves me and the actions which led me to kill my mentor.

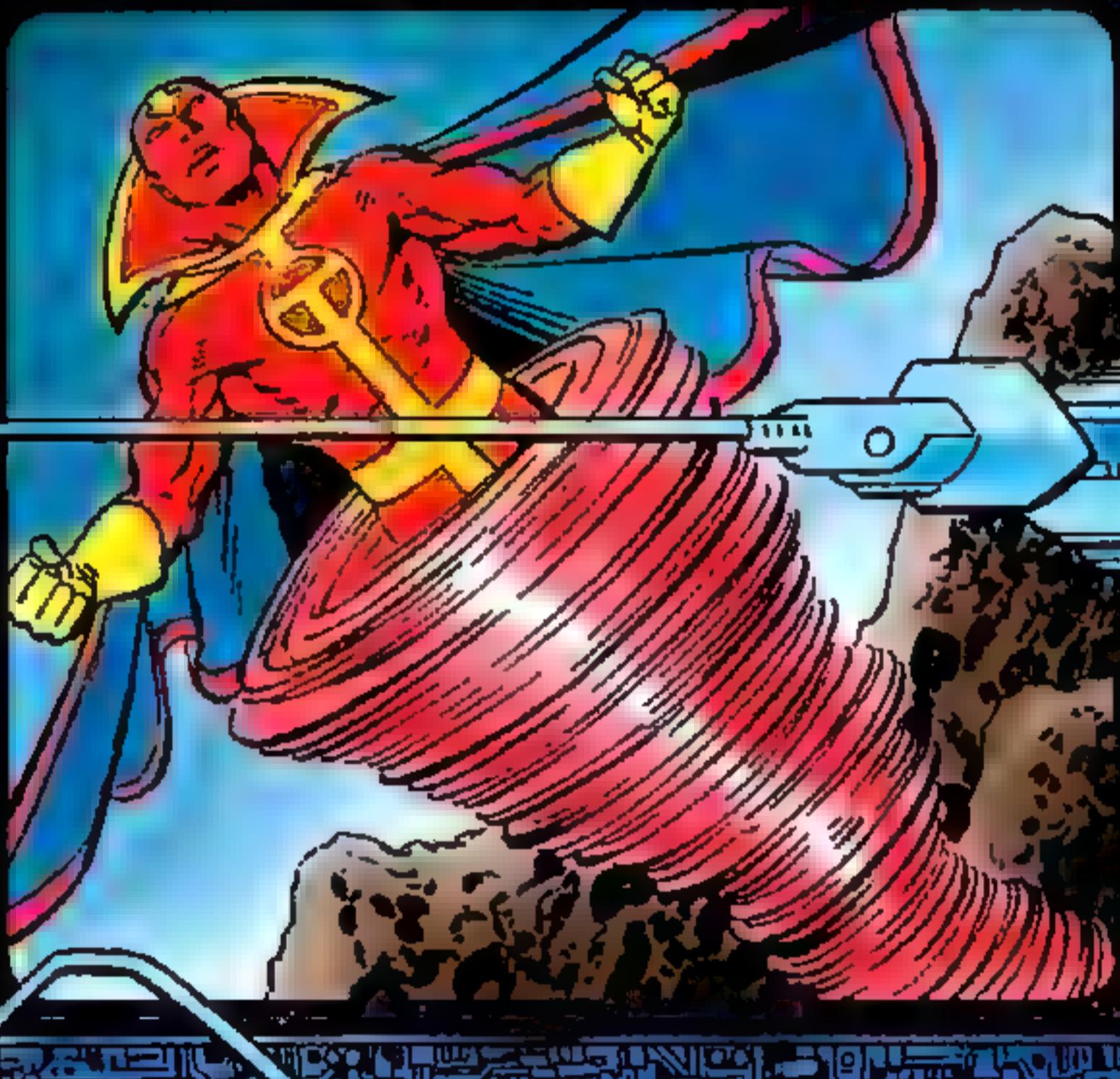
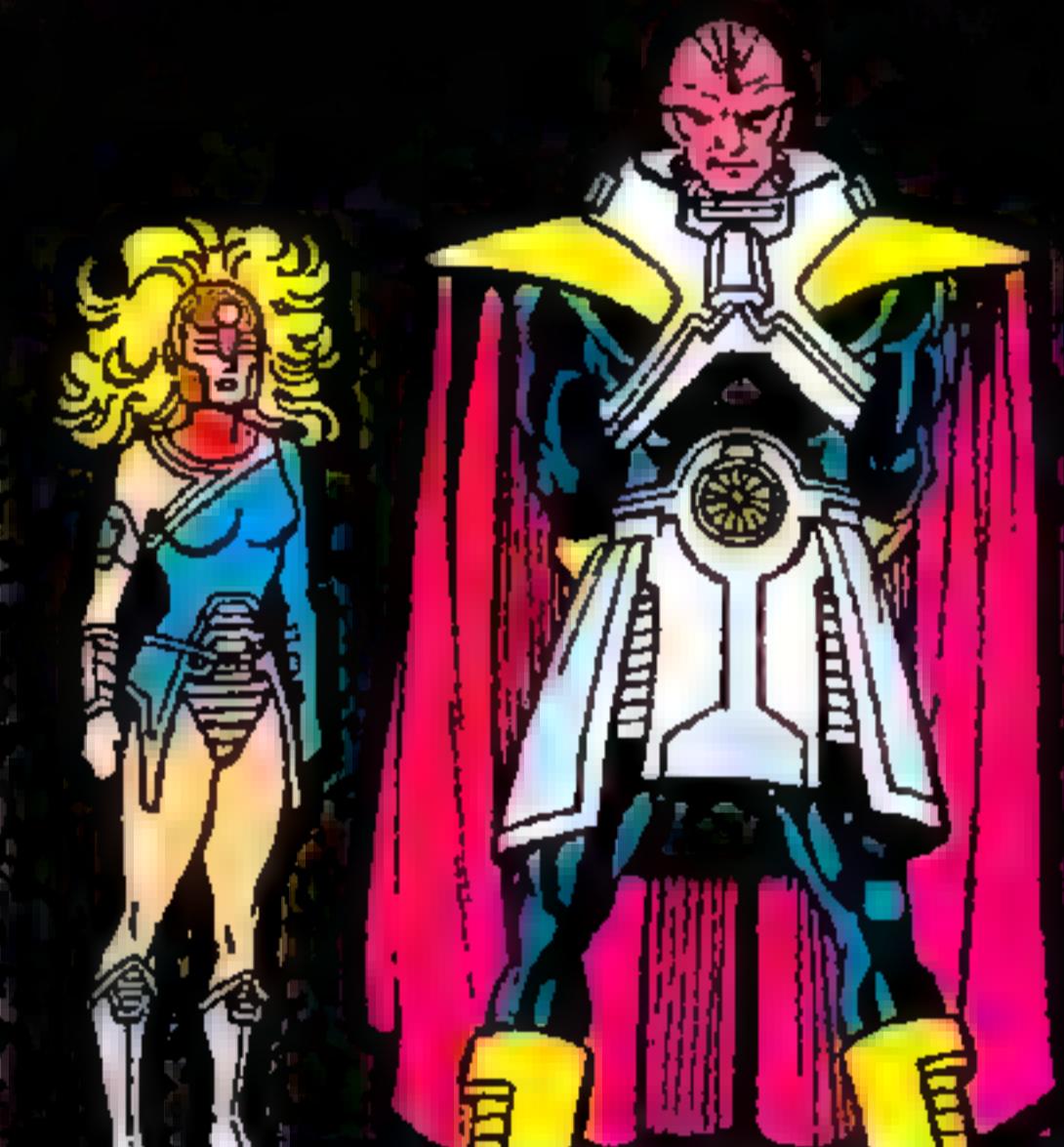
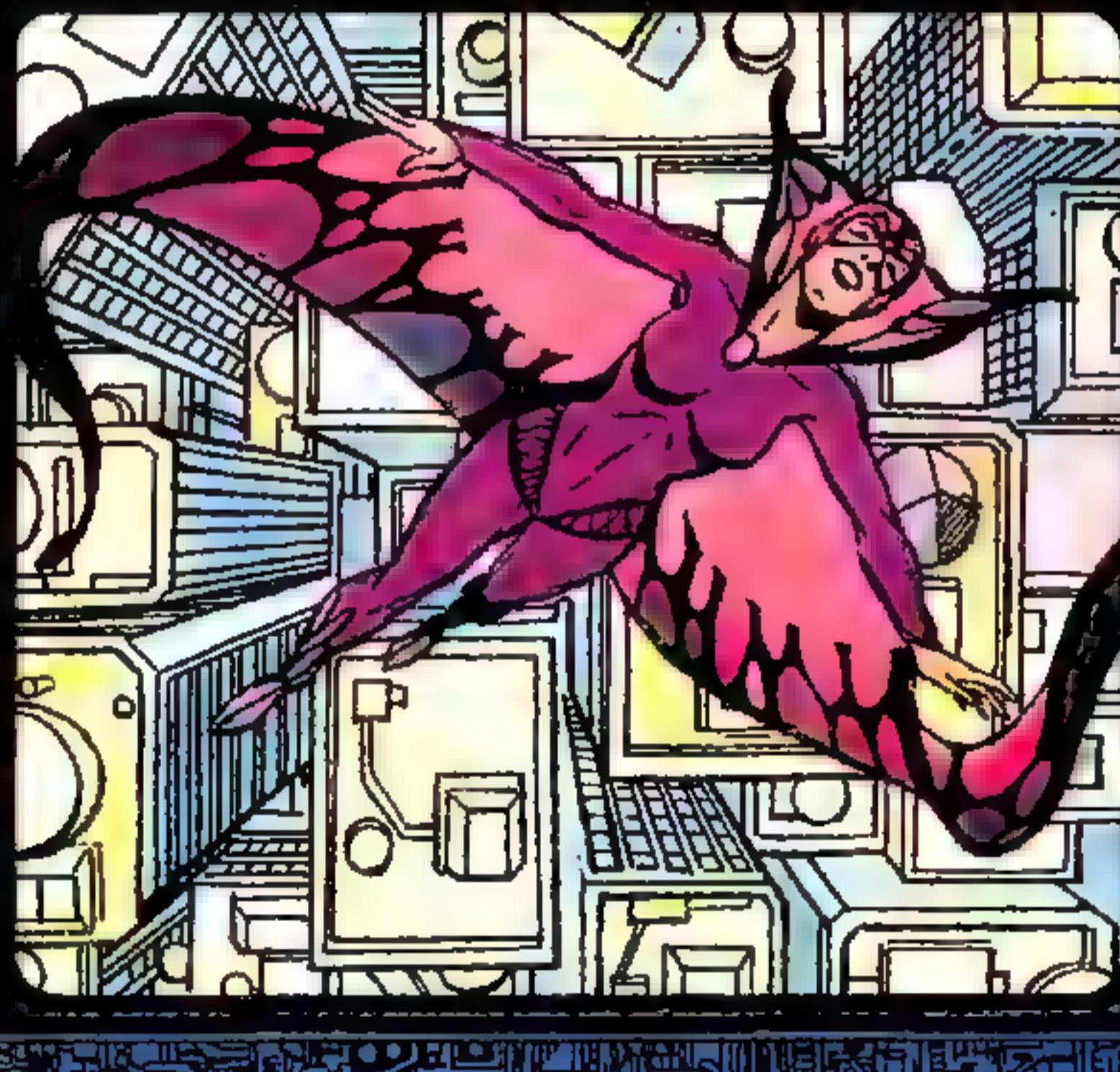
Ten billion years ago, two beings were born. In our universe came The Monitor, but his brother was born in the anti-matter universe of Qward.



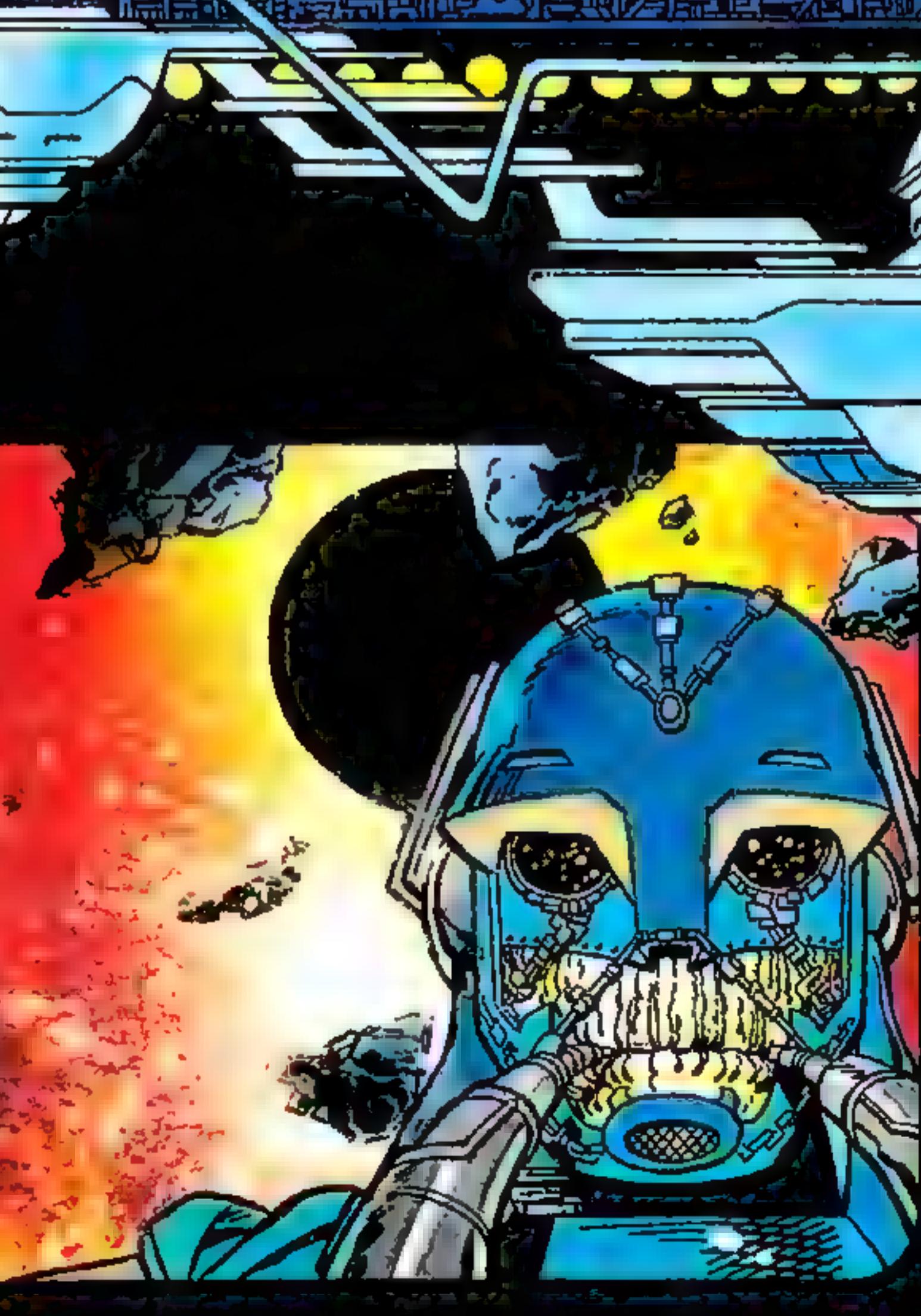
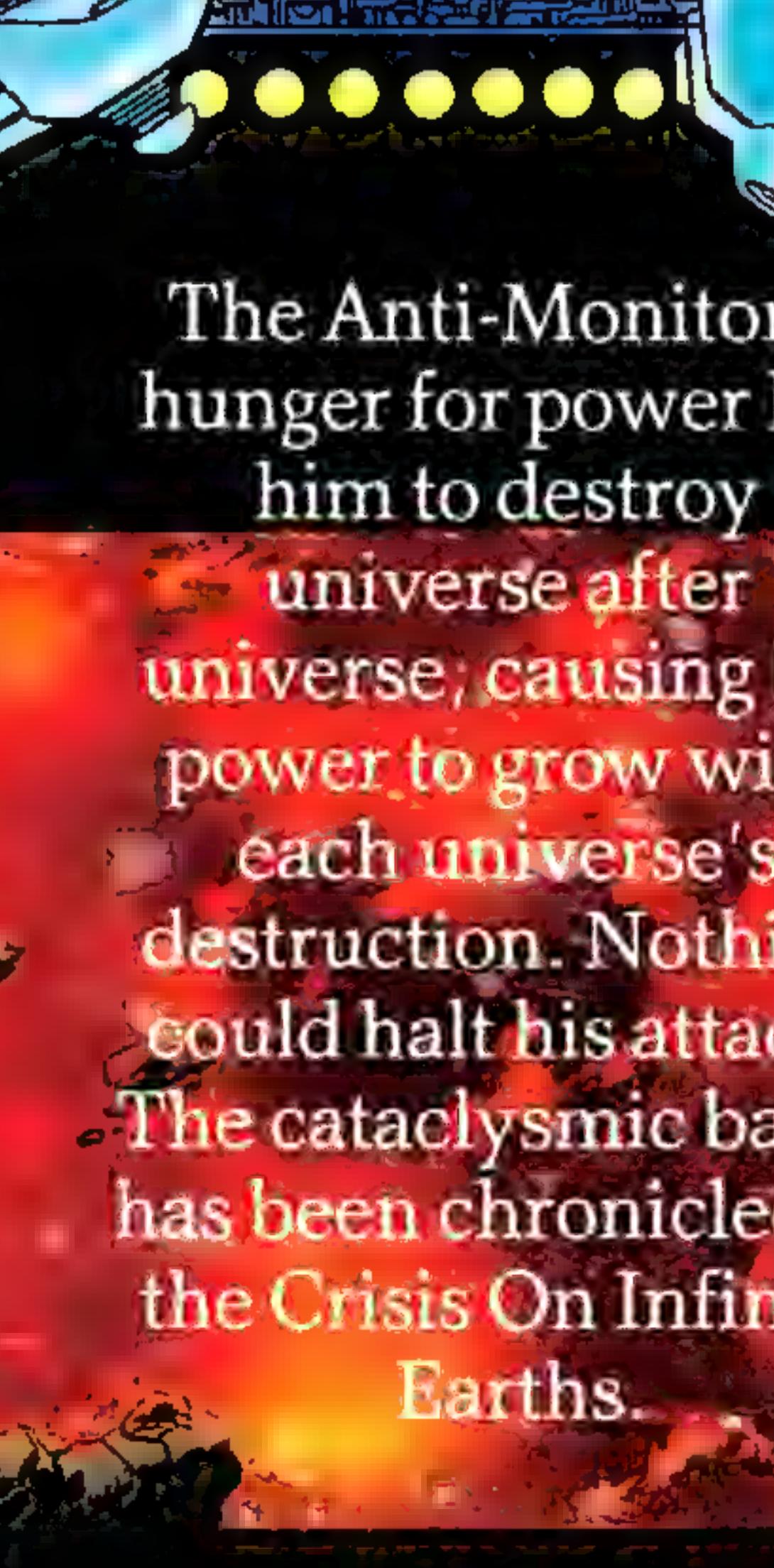
...Air Wave...  
...The Vigilante...

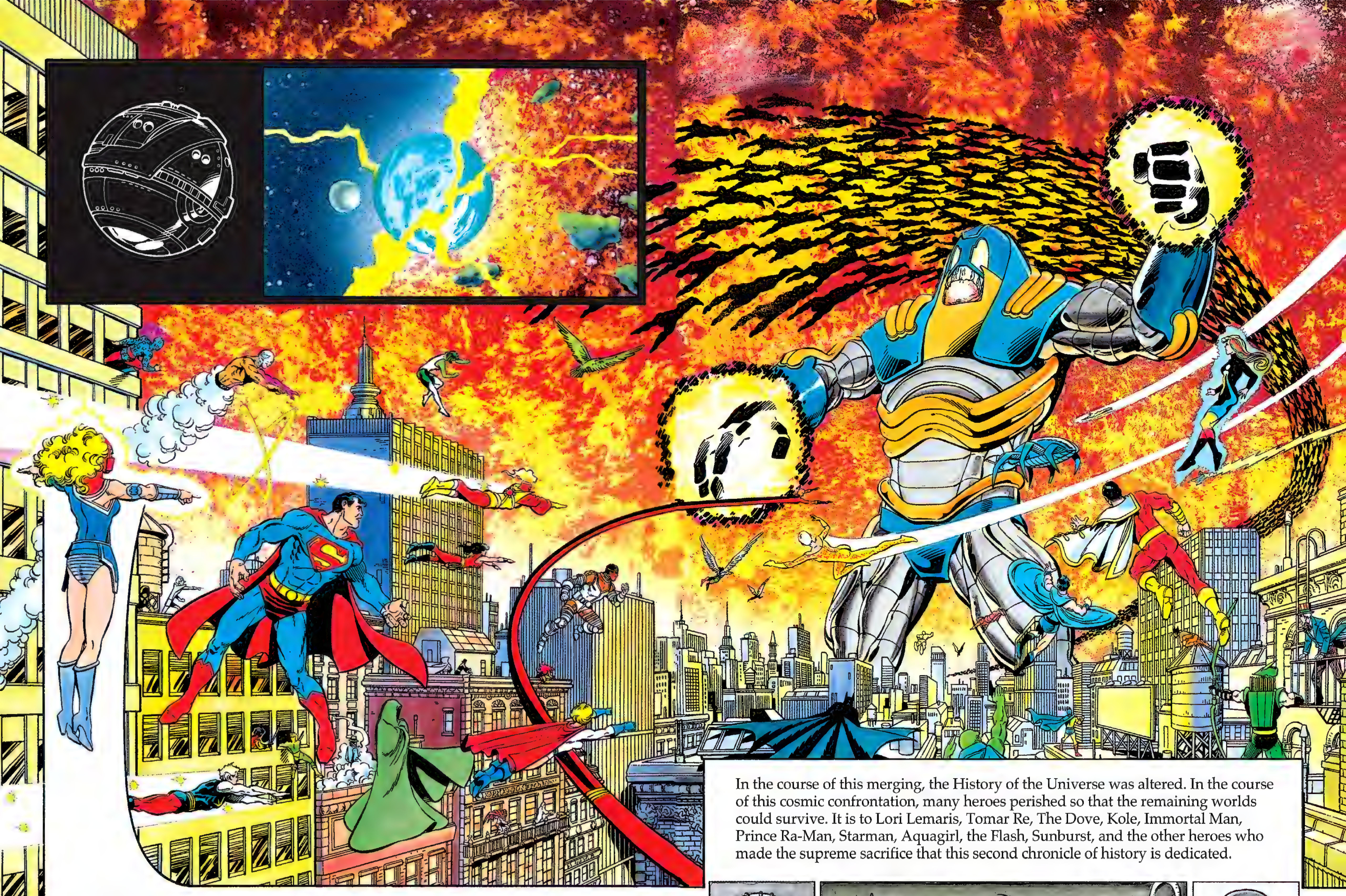


...and the robotic Red Tornado.  
The world would be safe,  
for a time.



The Anti-Monitor's hunger for power led him to destroy universe after universe, causing his power to grow with each universe's destruction. Nothing could halt his attack. The cataclysmic battle has been chronicled as the Crisis On Infinite Earths.





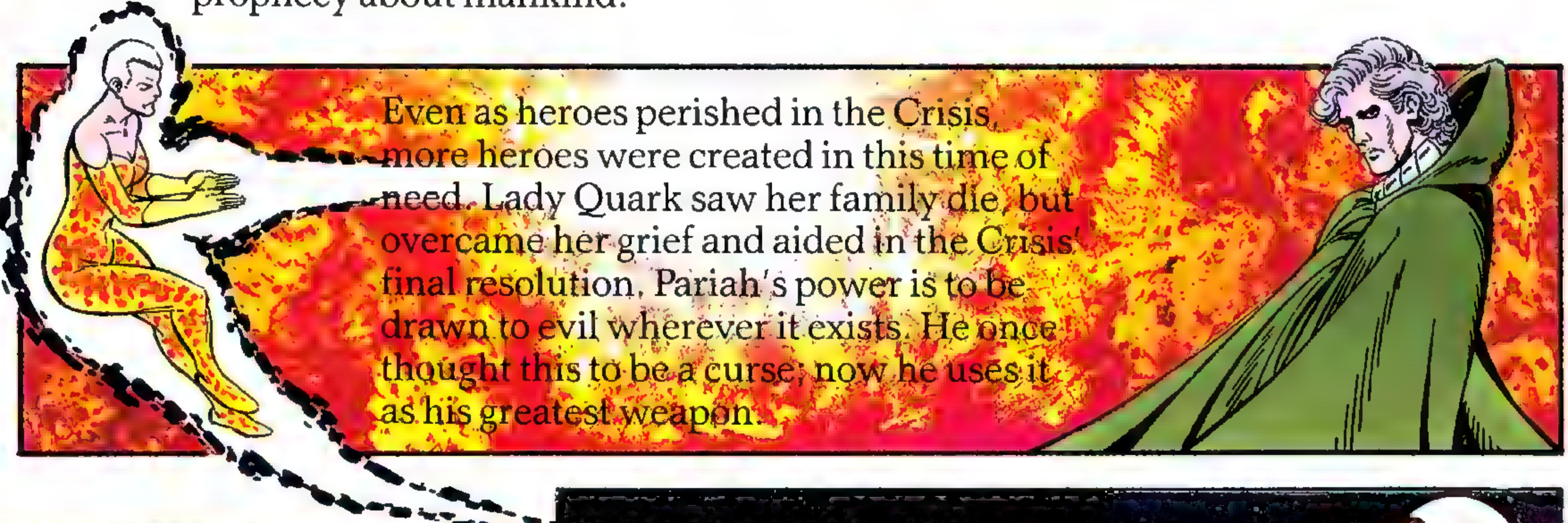
Five Universes remained, and with them five Earths. The Monitor brought together the greatest heroes and villains from all the Earths and forged them into a fighting army. The battle raged throughout the universes and across time itself, and during the battle I was compelled by the Anti-Monitor to fatally strike down his brother. Finally, the remaining universes were merged into one and enough force was brought to bear to destroy the Anti-Monitor.

In the course of this merging, the History of the Universe was altered. In the course of this cosmic confrontation, many heroes perished so that the remaining worlds could survive. It is to Lori Lemaris, Tomar Re, The Dove, Kole, Immortal Man, Prince Ra-Man, Starman, Aquagirl, the Flash, Sunburst, and the other heroes who made the supreme sacrifice that this second chronicle of history is dedicated.





The universe was irrevocably altered by the Crisis on Infinite Earths. The Guardians of the Universe turned their backs on their home on Oa, leaving the fabled Green Lantern Corps to fulfill their mysterious prophecy about mankind.

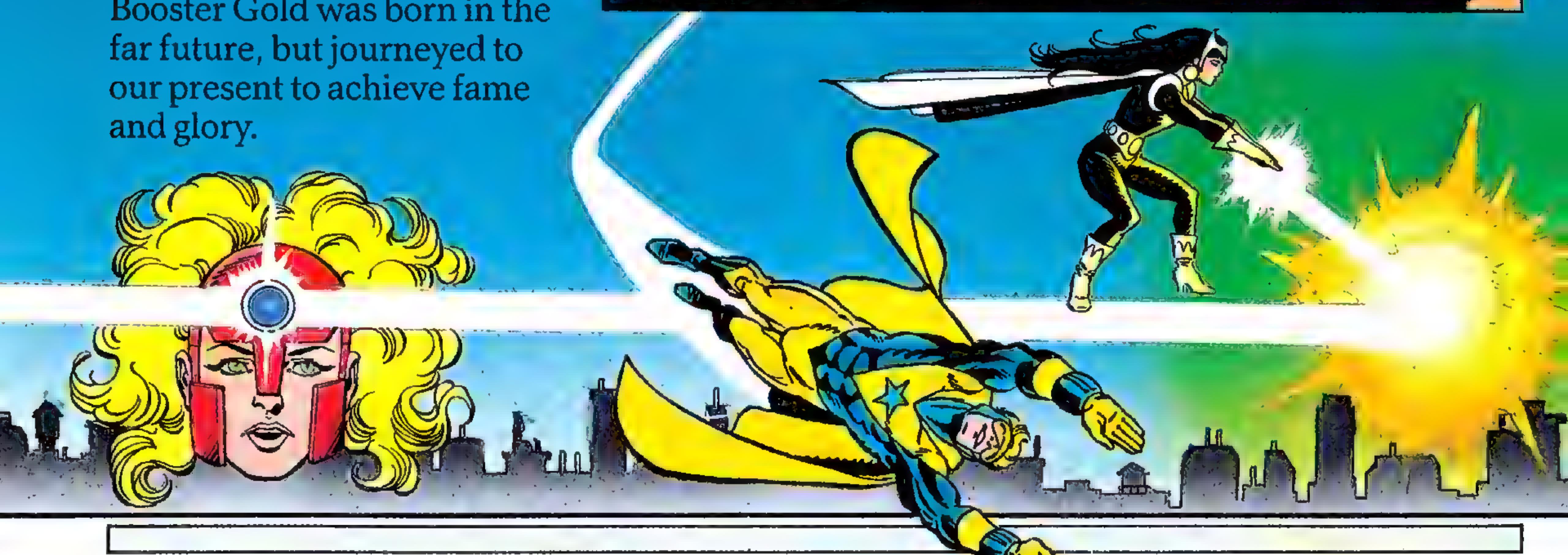


Even as heroes perished in the Crisis, more heroes were created in this time of need. Lady Quark saw her family die, but overcame her grief and aided in the Crisis' final resolution. Pariah's power is to be drawn to evil wherever it exists. He once thought this to be a curse, now he uses it as his greatest weapon.

Kimiyo Hoshi saw heroes sacrifice their lives to save the universe, and so Dr. Light swore to become one of the Earth's champions.

Booster Gold was born in the far future, but journeyed to our present to achieve fame and glory.

Yolanda Montez saw her godfather and mentor Ted Grant fall in battle, crippled saving a child's life. Yolanda donned his uniform in tribute to one of the world's earliest, finest heroes: Wildcat.





In the Vegan star system, the Citadel Wars were finally resolved when the evil empire was crushed by the forces of the Omega Men.

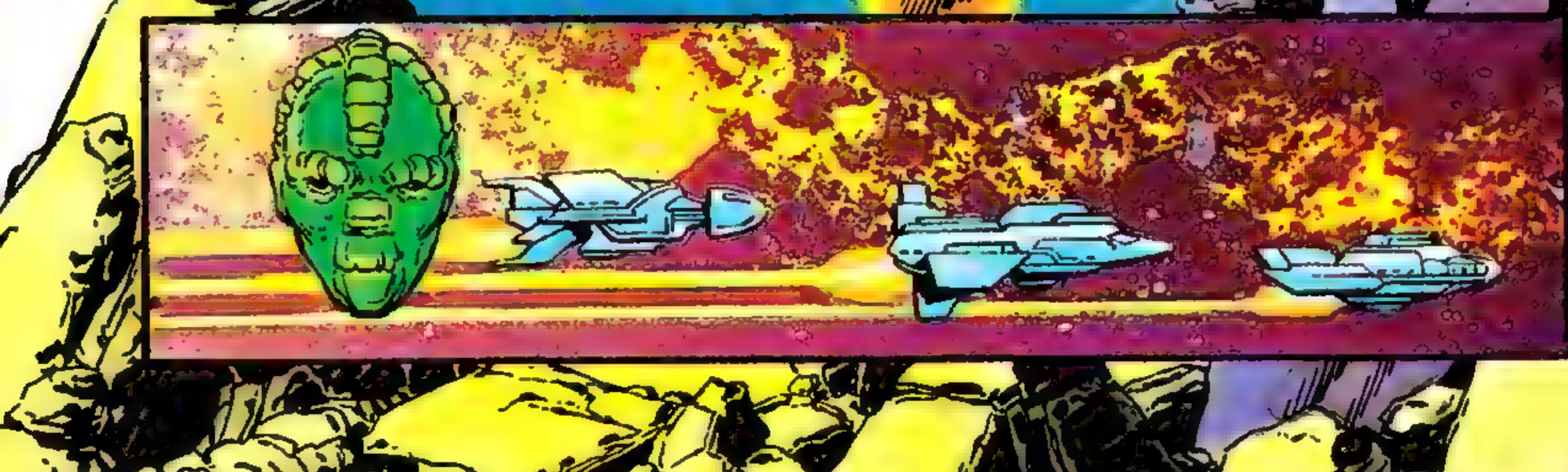
No sooner had the Citadellians been dispatched, however, than the twenty-two war-weary Vegan worlds found themselves under attack by the infamous Spider Guild.

The Omega Men regrouped, bringing new members into service. Old and new warriors alike banded together to once more free Vega from tyranny.

The Spider Guild was beaten back, but not destroyed. Outside the Vegan system, a strange, hostile refuge world was discovered. The Omega Men, under the leadership of Primus and his cyberlink Artin, offered a refuge to any Vegan who wished to settle this harsh new land. Those who answered the call knew they would never see their home worlds again.



The mad goddess X'Hal had been defeated, the Spider Guild forced into retreat, the Citadel dispersed and the Psion menace, for now, scattered throughout the galaxy in the wake of the departure of their jailers, the Guardians. The universe was on the verge of peace. It was not to last.

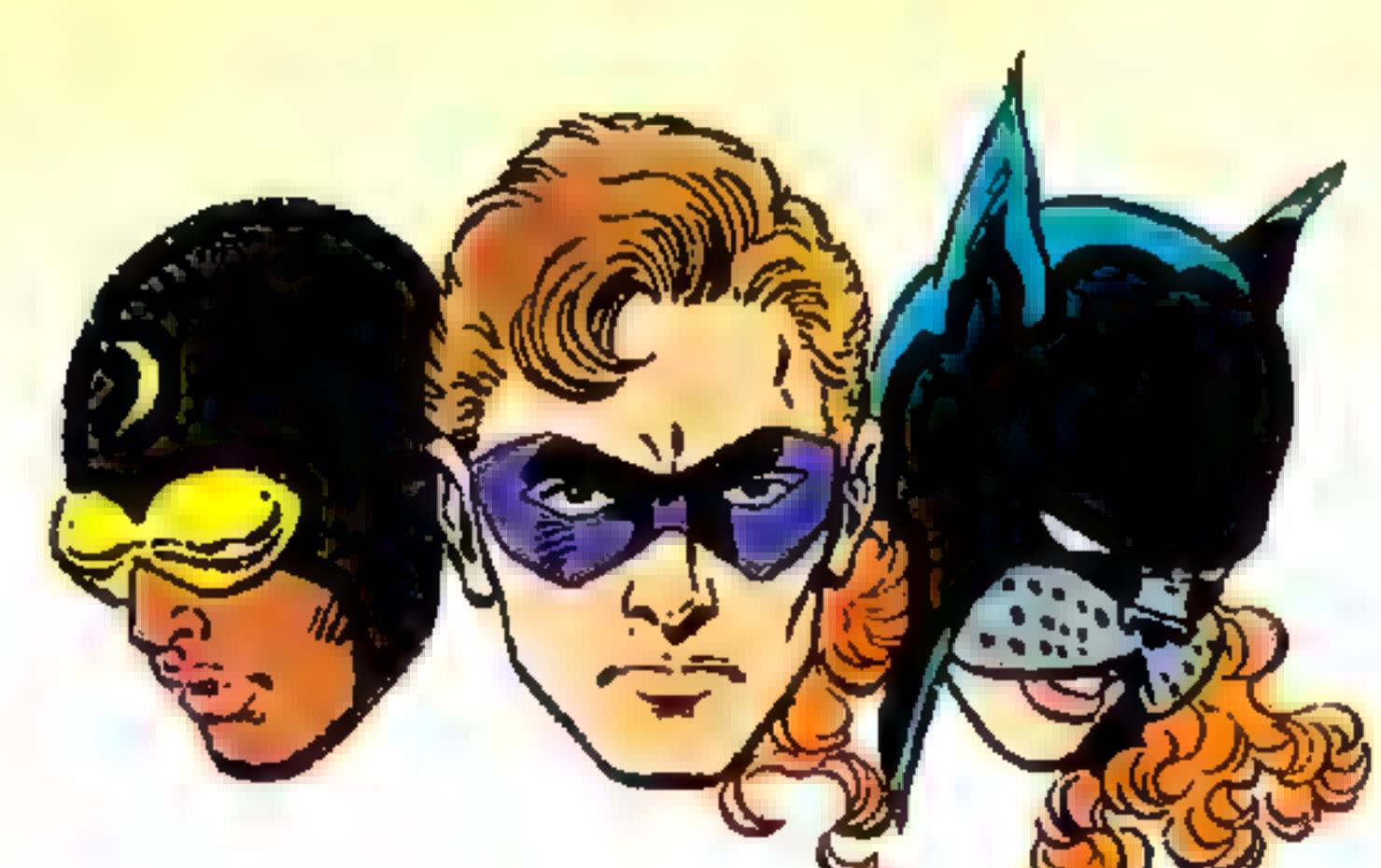




For one brief, magic moment there was peace throughout the galaxies. But this was short-lived as the famed Justice Society of America found themselves locked in an eternal battle in Valhalla. Perhaps their kind would never be seen again.



The Justice Society was gone, but their children lived on to lend continuity to the heroic ideal. These children of great heroes became great heroes themselves in the mighty group called Infinity, Inc.





Great heroes and terrible villains...the stuff of legends. When you hear of the great gods of myth, you forget that they once were real, for now only their legends survive.

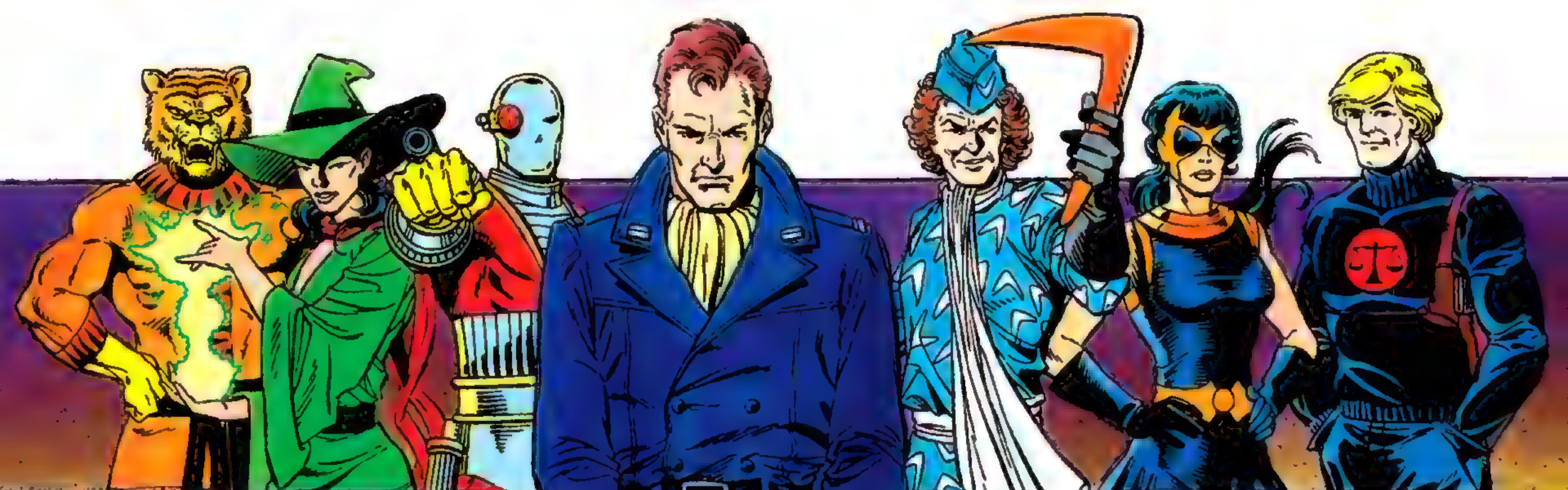
But take a legend—twist it, destroy it—remove it from conscious memory; take the legend of greatness and reduce it to nothingness. That was the plan of Darkseid the Destroyer. Through his destruction of legends, the great devil sought to make himself a god unto mankind.

Darkseid's dreams of glory faded, but from his fevered wish to destroy the fabric of legend, new ones were given birth.





The Justice League of America was no longer, but in its wake a new force was born. Forevermore this international—even interplanetary—team would be called The Justice League.



A second secret society was created from the tattered remains of Darkseid's challenge. The government offered clemency to those super-criminals who gave them service.

No sane person would accept these missions; no sane person would lead such a motley crew. But Rick Flag, Jr. agreed when he was asked by his government to lead the re-formed Task Force X, the Suicide Squad.



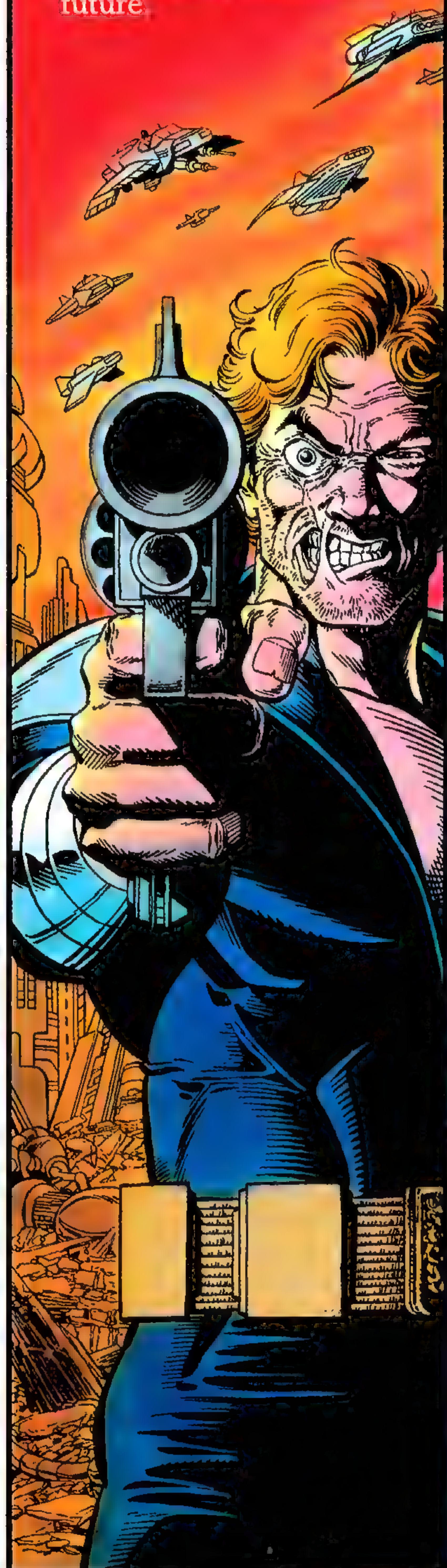
Until now this narrative has dealt with times past and present. We have seen the history of the universe and its current events. But The Monitor's computers can see not only what was and is, but what will be.

With the merging of the universes, there came one consistent future.

The twenty-first century began not with the hoped-for peace between nations, but with the harsh reality of war. The seven superpowers that existed at the dawn of the new millennium withheld the use of their nuclear arsenal until the war's final days.

Even then, deployment of the nuclear arsenal was surprisingly limited. Fear of global catastrophe and annihilation prevented even the Terrorist Triumvirate from launching a full-scale attack. In all, only seventeen nuclear missiles were launched. Only six reached their targets. Destruction, though widespread, was contained to a half-dozen areas around the globe, but even this limited war could not prevent the chaos that ensued. The Earth became a new, grim world.

It took almost sixty years for order to return. And it took the rebirth of heroes to insure the world would survive until order prevailed. From the past came men like Jonah Hex to fight for a peaceful future.



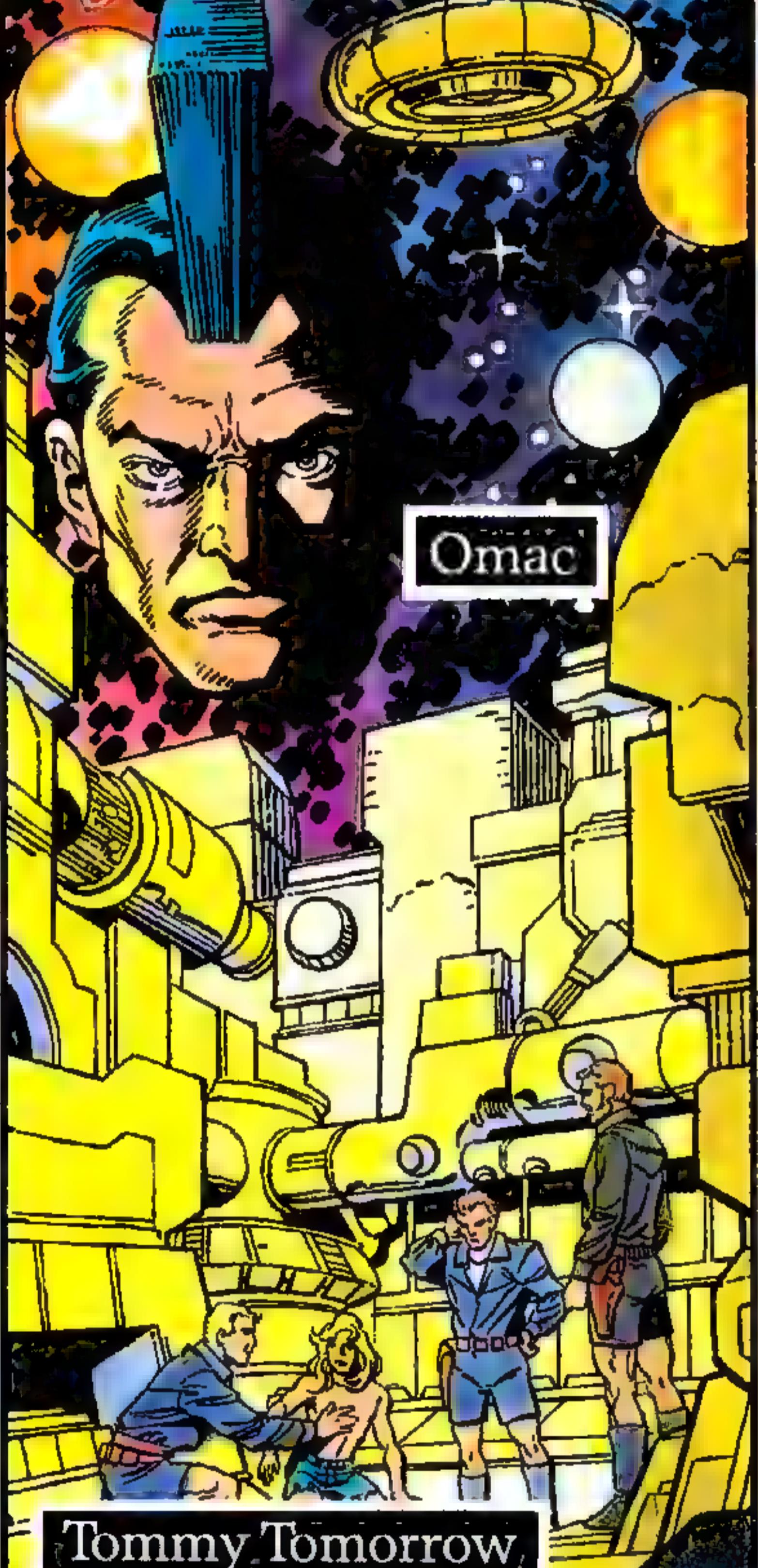
Chris KL-99



The future was one of peace. Within one century, mankind had regained its control over the Earth. Space was conquered. At long last, Earthlings had reached the stars!

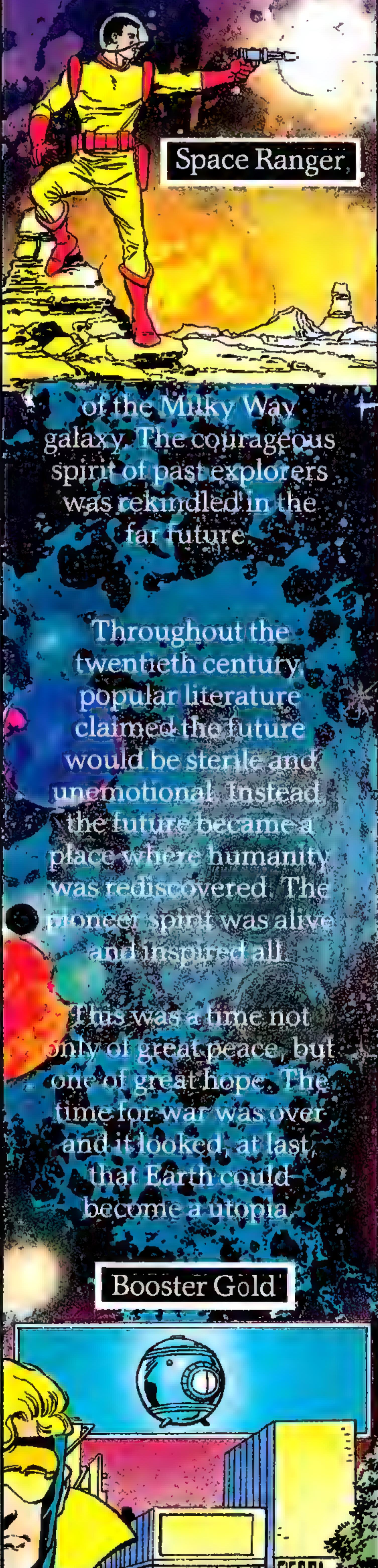
A young orphan boy was found in the Command D bunker of Space Planeteer Headquarters by Gen. Horatio Tomorrow.

Young Tommy Tomorrow would grow up to become the greatest Planeteer of all.



The Planeteers were the prime peace-keeping armed forces of the future. The Space Rangers became the future policemen.

This was a time for exploration and courage. Man reached beyond his solar system, journeyed to the farthest reaches



of the Milky Way galaxy. The courageous spirit of past explorers was rekindled in the far future.

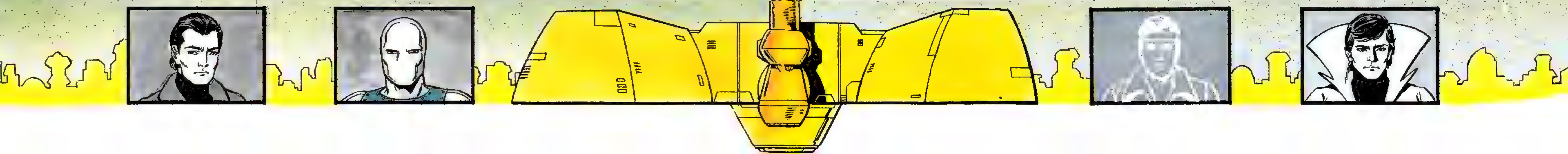
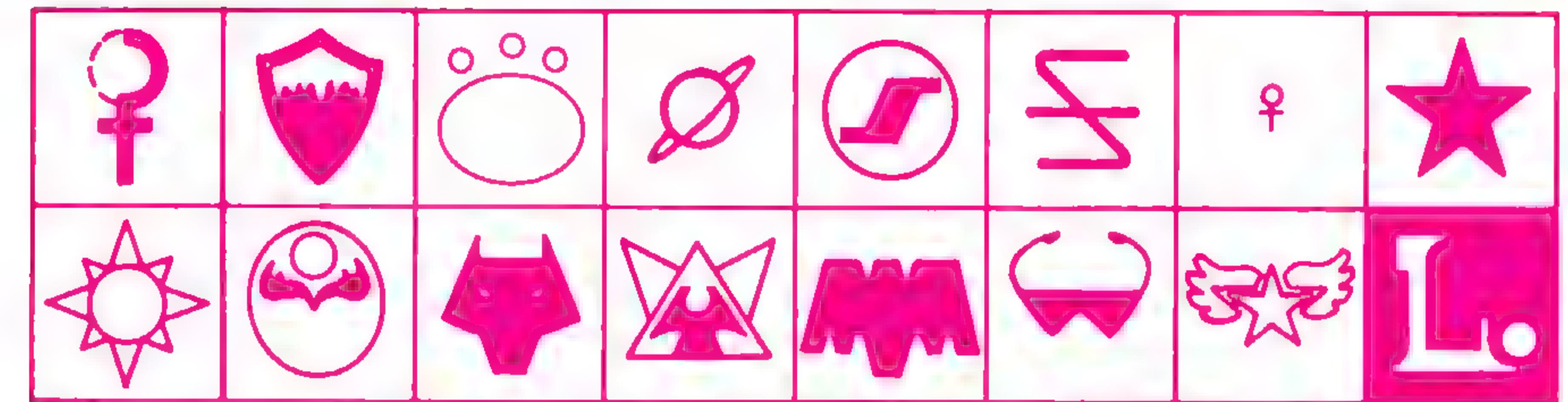
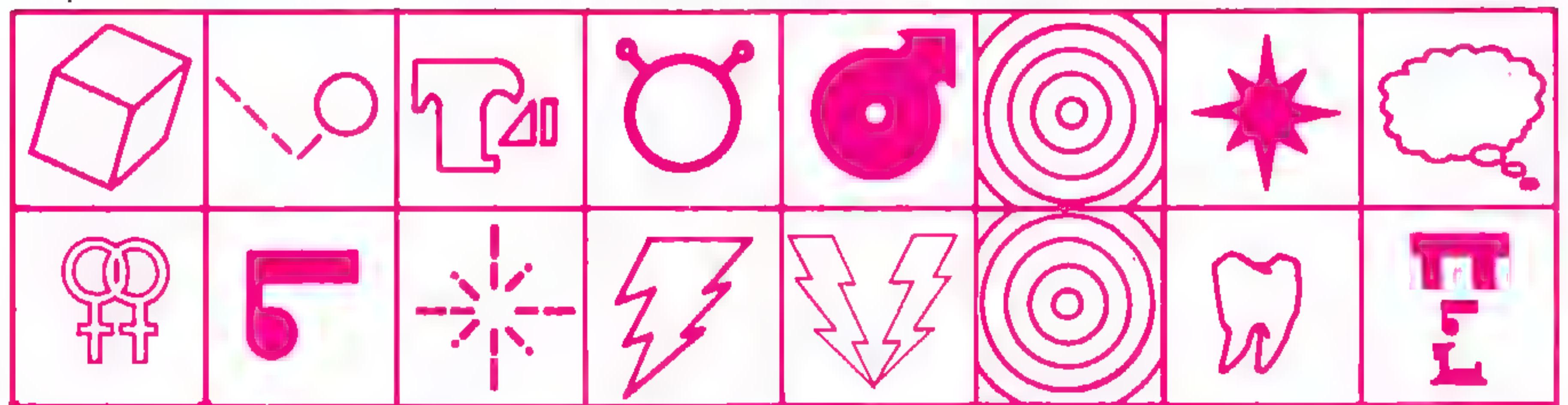
Throughout the twentieth century popular literature claimed the future would be sterile and unemotional. Instead the future became a place where humanity was rediscovered. The pioneer spirit was alive and inspired all.

This was a time not only of great peace, but one of great hope. The time for war was over and it looked, at last, that Earth could become a utopia.

Booster Gold

There was a millennium of peace as planets throughout this galaxy and others became colonized by our children's children. The future was bright and the heroic ideal flourished again. It was in the thirtieth century that the third wave of heroes came into being with what was to be the greatest of all heroic societies.

They came from planets ... everywhere. They were the most powerful teenagers in the universe and they called themselves The Legion of Super-Heroes.



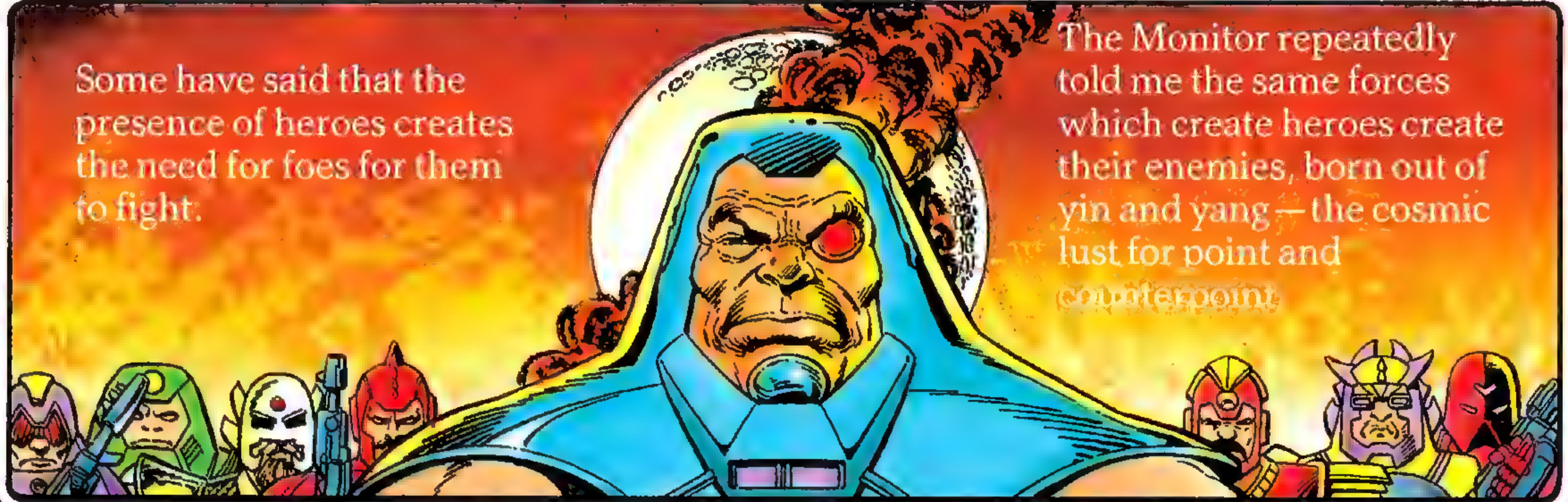
With the birth of the Legion came others in their wake: The Heroes of Lallor.



And in deepest space, another set of heroes grew to become legends, as The Wanderers sailed throughout the universe. Their successes were many — until their sudden disappearance.



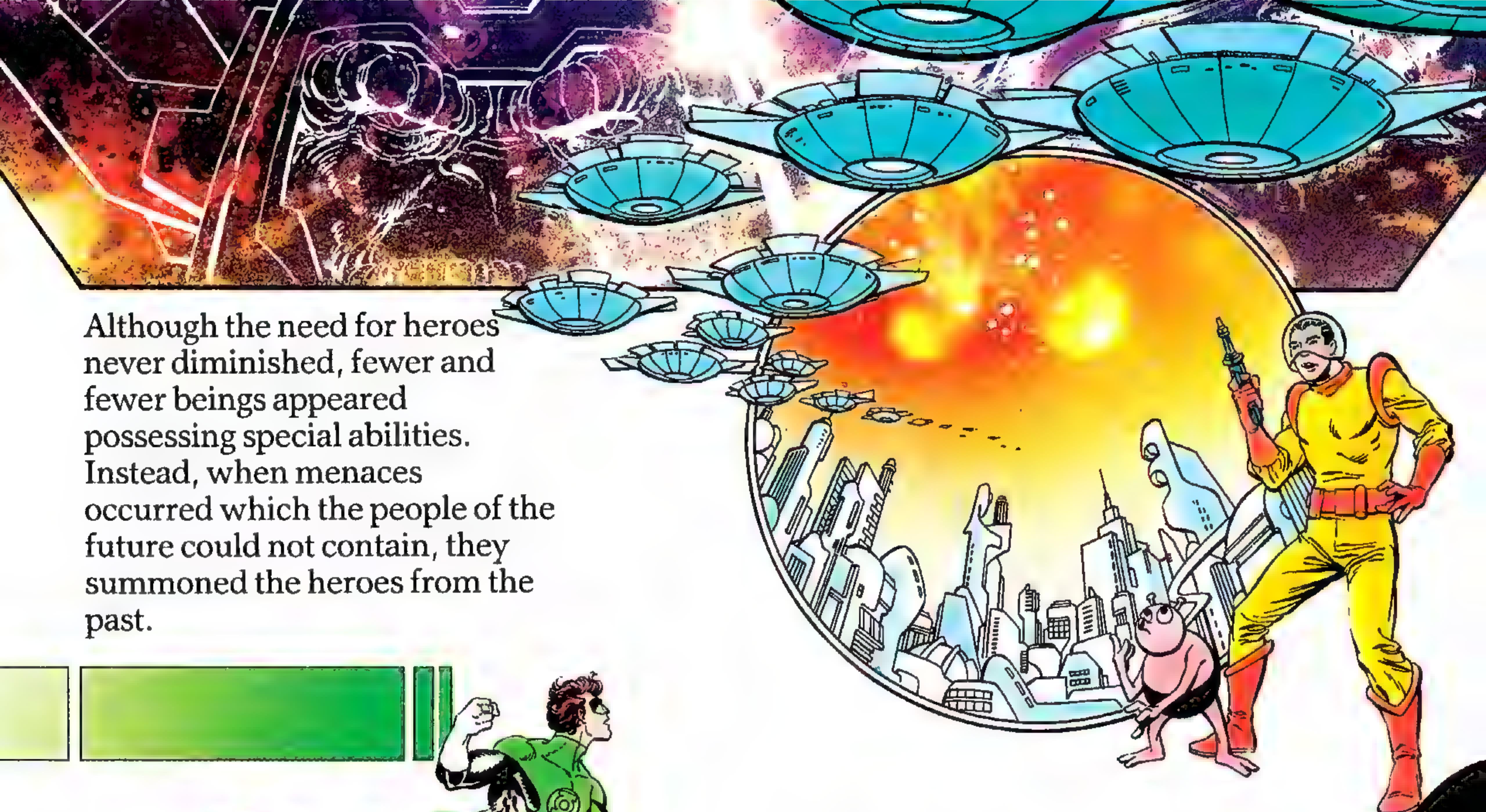
Some have said that the presence of heroes creates the need for foes for them to fight.



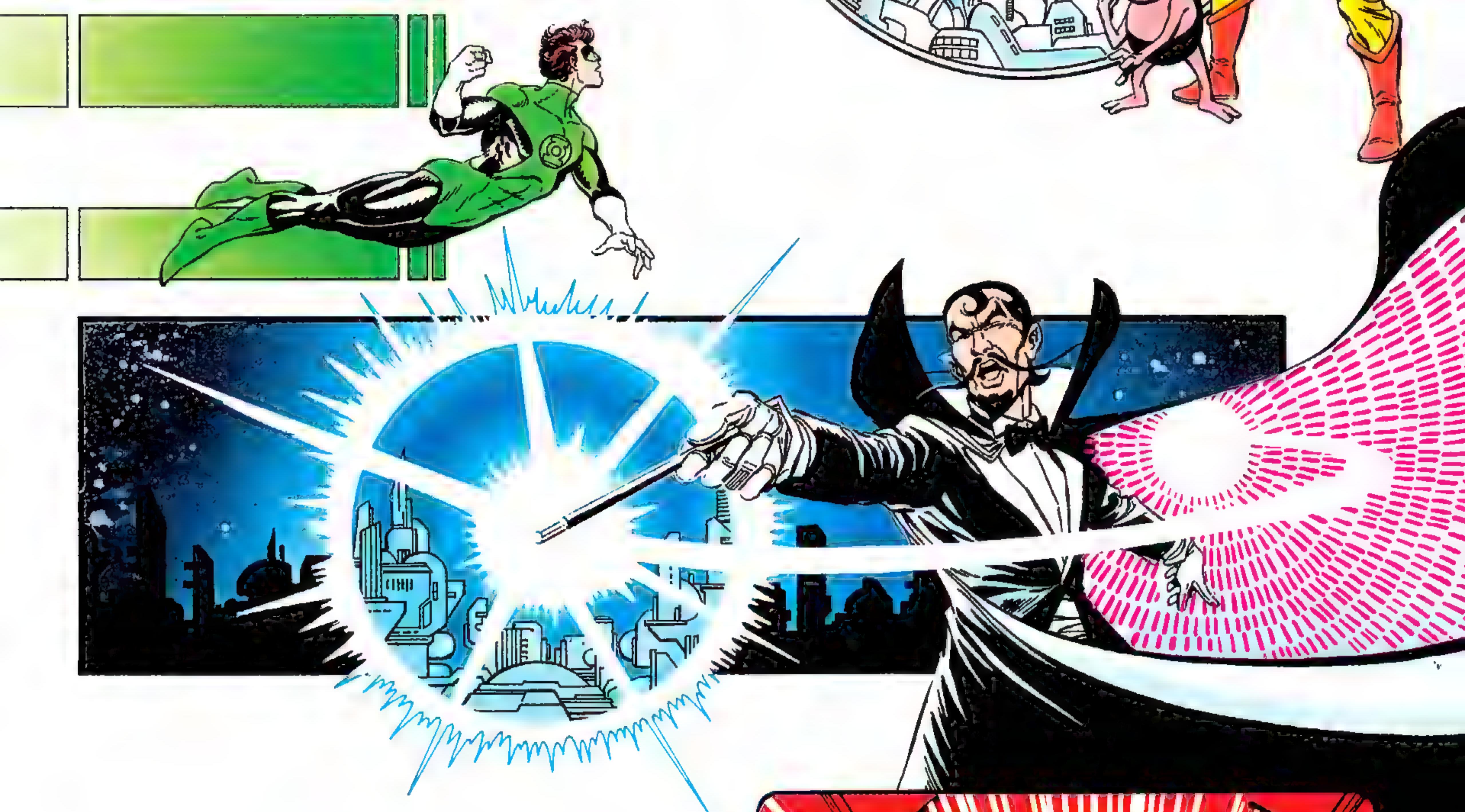
The Monitor repeatedly told me the same forces which create heroes create their enemies, born out of yin and yang — the cosmic lust for point and counterpoint.

The Khunds were a despotic race; nurtured in a world forever eclipsed, their power spread throughout the galaxy. It took the combined powers of all the Legionnaires to end their menace.

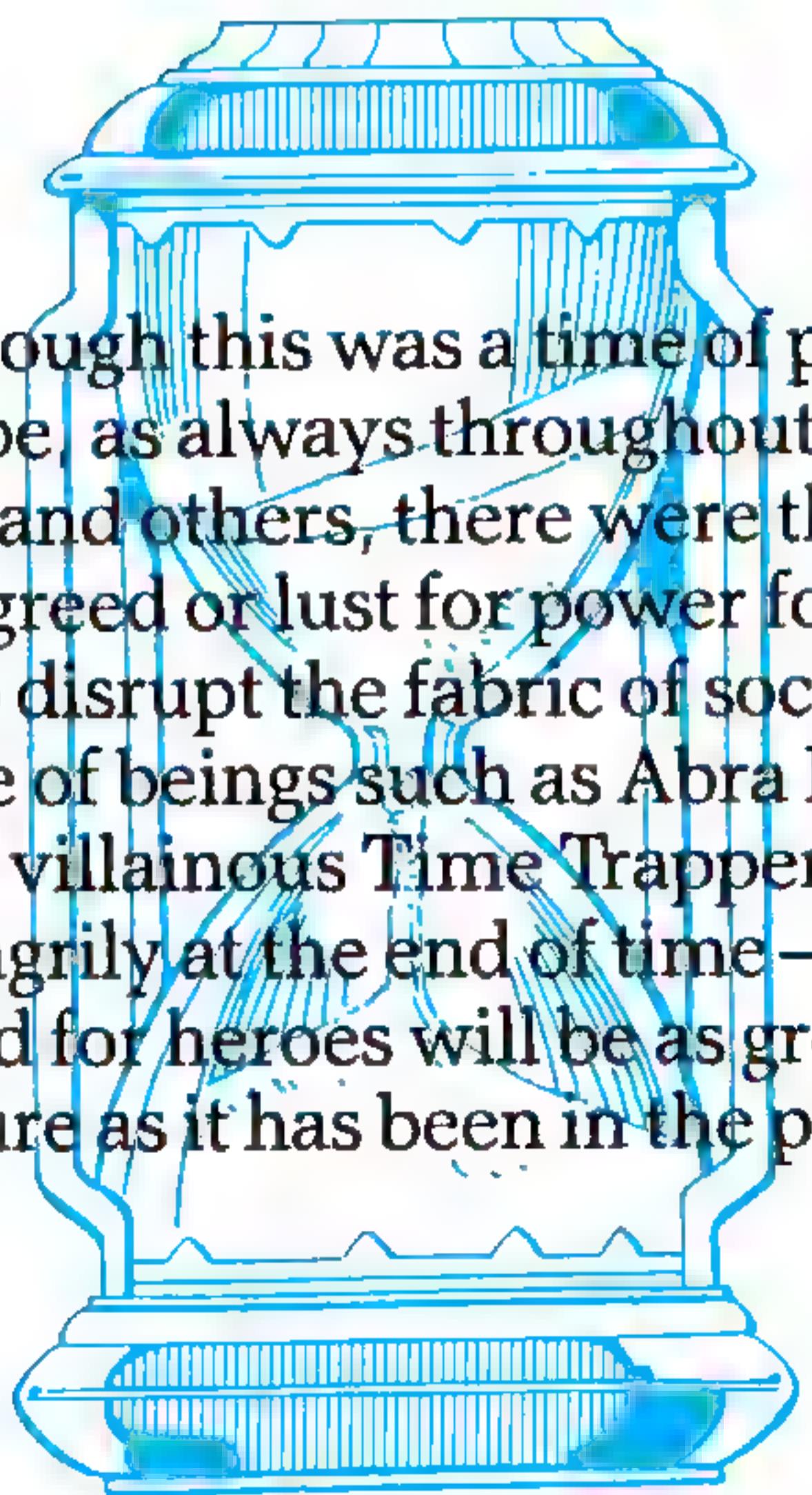
Some evil cannot be destroyed: Great Darkseid the Destroyer survived for centuries. His ultimate vanquishment has never been recorded.



Although the need for heroes never diminished, fewer and fewer beings appeared possessing special abilities. Instead, when menaces occurred which the people of the future could not contain, they summoned the heroes from the past.



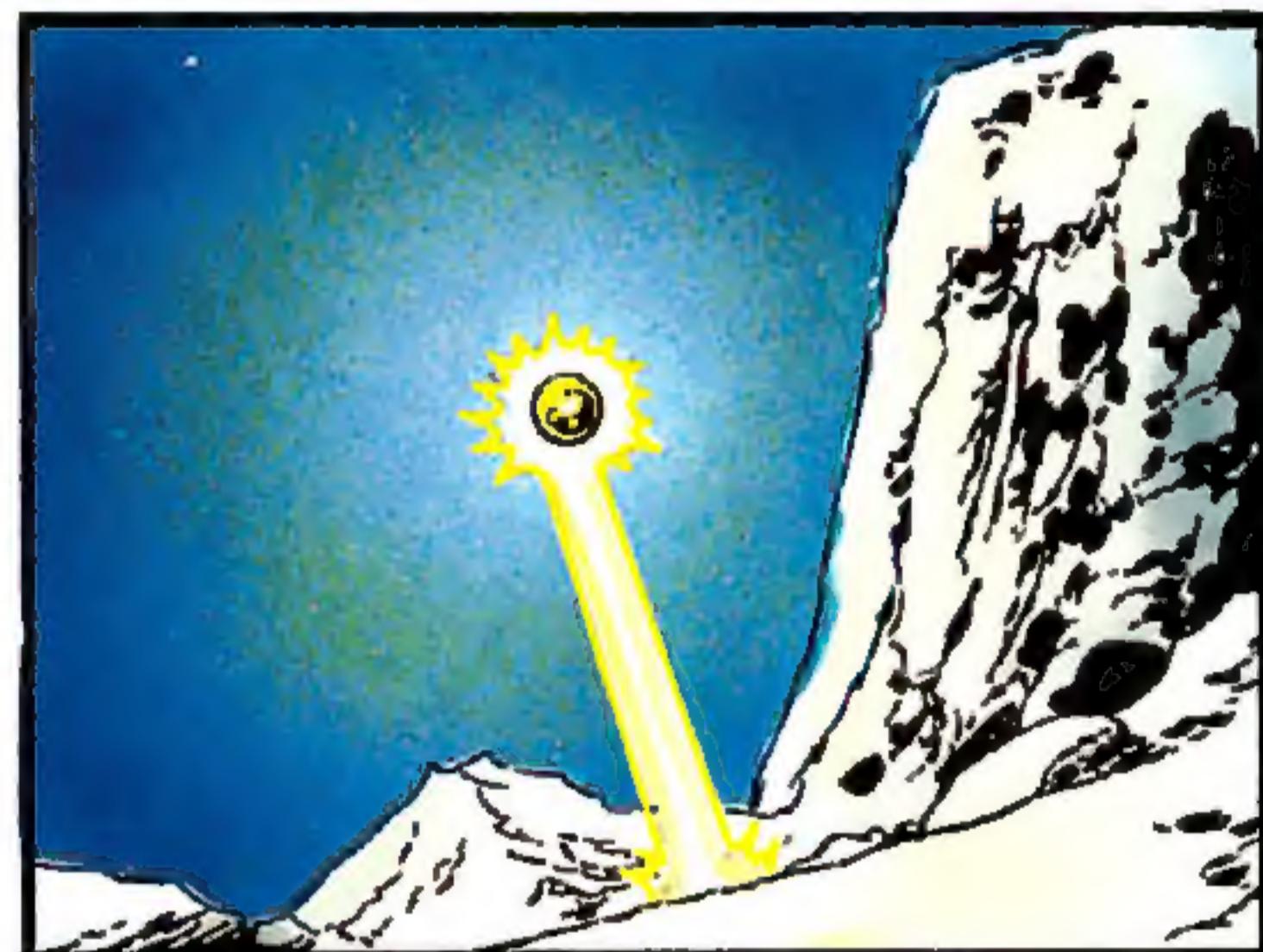
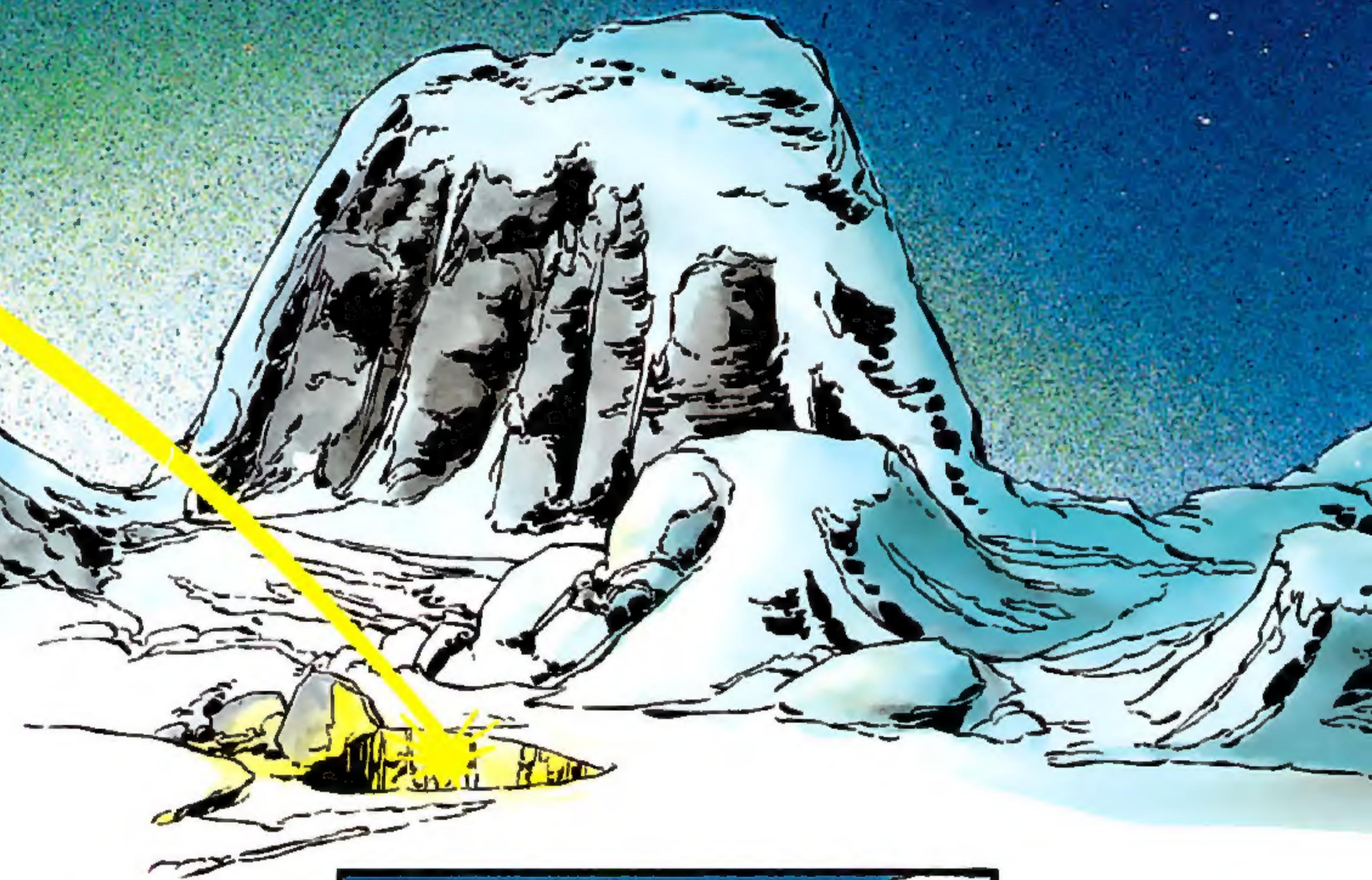
Even though this was a time of peace and hope, as always throughout this history and others, there were those whose greed or lust for power forced them to disrupt the fabric of society. It is because of beings such as Abra Kadabra and the villainous Time Trapper—who sits hungrily at the end of time—that the need for heroes will be as great in the future as it has been in the past.



This tome of history is done. There were untold numbers I could not discuss, those billions of souls who would never be considered special, but whose common work each day makes them as great as any with unique powers and gifts.

I had sworn that I would complete the Monitor's work, and so I have, but this history may not be seen by any mortal eyes. The future must unfold as it comes—day by day, allowing for the ebb and flow of change.

It ends now. The Monitor had dreamed of saving the universe, and so he did; he dreamed of compiling its heroic history, and I have fulfilled his last request.



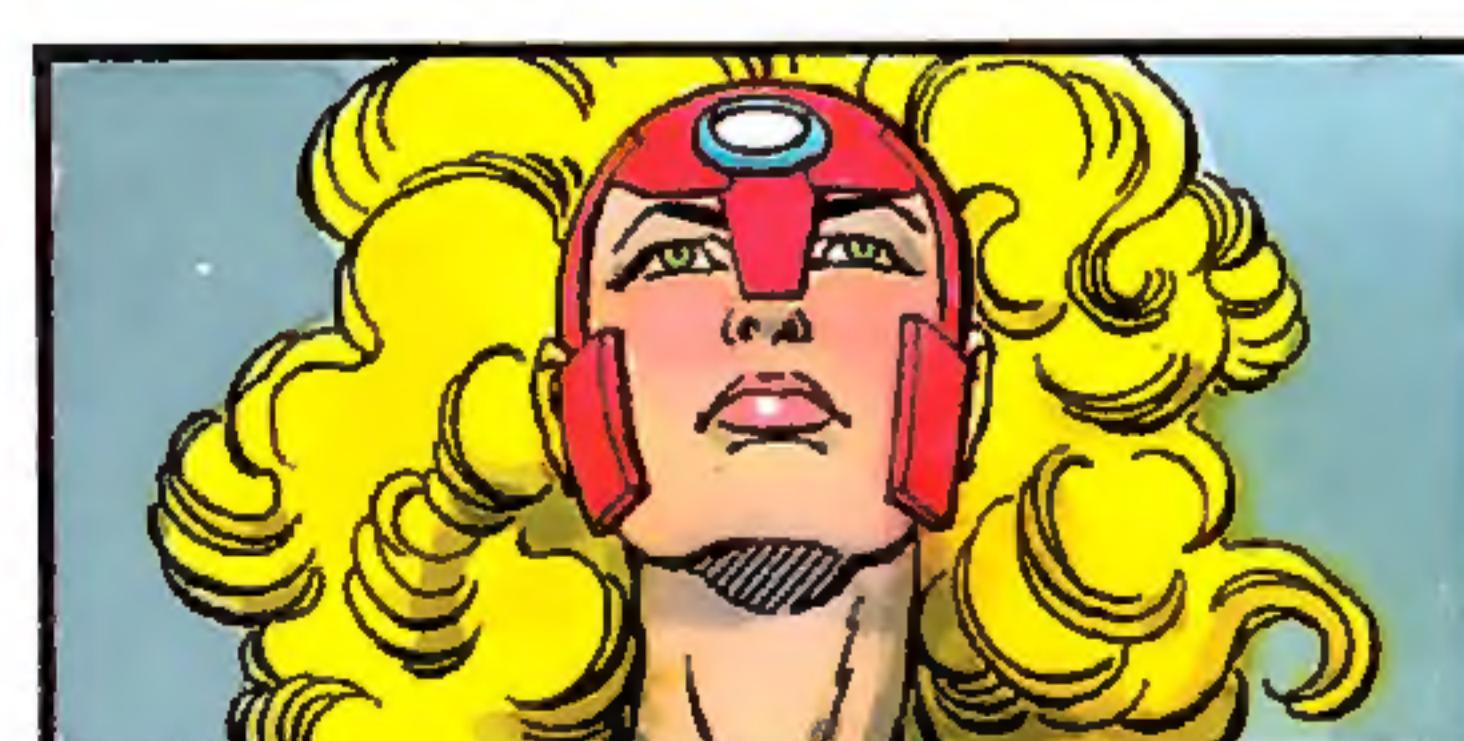
And is so doing, I have learned the truth: the stuff of heroes is within us all—the willingness to go beyond the normal routine and lend help to those who need it.

Give food to the hungry, freedom to the oppressed, safety to the victim, peace to the survivors of war.

I remember as a child the so-called Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. To be a hero is to live by those words.

It is as simple as that.

I bid you now farewell.



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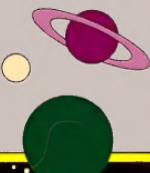
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# NOVUS

# Year Three

